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TODAY:
LEISURE
Argentine Mix, Page 8

Tide Shifts to Clinton, Senate Democrats Say

They See a 'Sea Change' in Trial Momentum As Defense Lawyers Conclude Spirited Case

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — White House lawyers concluded their three-day defense of President Bill Clinton on Thursday, assailing the evidence against Mr. Clinton as "profoundly ambiguous" and saying that it was built on "speculation, theorizing and hypothesis."

David Kendall, the president's private attorney, told the 100 senators who are weighing articles of impeachment against Mr. Clinton that there had been "concerted, partisan distortion" of the evidence.

Instead, he said, "The evidence plainly shows that the president did not obstruct justice in any way and there is nothing in this article that would warrant his removal from office."

Mr. Kendall spoke a day after other members of the Clinton defense team denounced the obstruction of justice and perjury accusations against the president as "legal mumbo jumbo" and "frivolous" charges based on "utterly meaningless" differences in testimony.

Many Democrats were heartened by what they said was a powerful and at times rousing White House defense, and some proclaimed that momentum in the historic trial had shifted in the president's favor.

They said that the White House legal team had successfully rebutted the arguments that Mr. Clinton should be removed from office for perjury and obstruction of justice in seeking to conceal his intimate relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the White House intern.

"I think there's a sea change going on," Senator Dianne Feinstein of California said on CNN. She said that a "very solid Democratic bloc" had emerged in the Senate and added, "I don't know of a single vote that would be for the articles of impeachment at this stage."

"It is now time to stop impeachment, get it over with, and let's go to work on the people's agenda," said the House Democratic leader, Richard Gephardt.

Democrats also gleefully welcomed a statement by a prominent conservative pundit, Pat Robertson, who said that Mr. Clinton had "hit a home run" in his State of the Union address Tuesday. (Page 3.)

Mr. Robertson said that Republicans "might as well dismiss this impeachment hearing and get on with something else."

Republicans conceded that Mr. Clinton has benefited from a predictable shift of momentum as his lawyers took the spotlight, following an unexpectedly persuasive presentation by the House prosecutors, but added that it was only the latest of countless such shifts since the scandal began.

Representative James Rogan of California, one of the Republican managers, said he was "very disappointed" by the White House case "because it was riddled with inaccuracies and half-truths."

Added another manager, Representative Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas: "It appears the White House strategy is to attack the managers more personally and to make this as managers versus White House. And that is not the fact of this case."

With the conclusion of the White

House arguments Thursday, the historic trial was moving into a new and uncertain phase.

Some Democrats, encouraged by the White House defense, said that they might propose to move directly to votes on the two impeachment articles next week in a bid to end the trial preemptively.

Under a plan backed by Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, a Democratic motion planned for Monday on dismissing the case would be replaced by a vote on the impeachment charges. That approach, however, could be blocked even by a single senator, under agreed-on rules.

Following the White House legal team's closing, senators will be permitted to submit written questions to both legal sides. This two-day exercise may offer hints at the thinking of the 100 senators sitting as Mr. Clinton's jury.

Each side's leadership was assembling questions and organizing them to avoid repetition.

For now, the White House lawyers appear to have firmed support for Mr. Clinton among the 45 Democratic senators. If they remain unified, they can defeat an eventual vote to convict the president, which requires 67 votes.

Mr. Clinton, who returned to Washington Thursday after a trip to New

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A Battle on the Road to Bucharest



A Romanian coal miner in a helmet he seized from a policeman rallying his fellow miners Thursday as they broke through a roadblock on the way to the capital. The miners are striving once again to back up their long-term demands for a big pay increase and a halt to the closing of pits around the nation. Page 10.

Milosevic 'Inflexible' On Kosovo, Envoy Says

U.S. Renews Warning As Top Monitor Defies Belgrade on Expulsion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — A U.S. diplomat said Thursday that President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia had made no concessions on demands to avoid threatened NATO military action.

"He remains inflexible on all key compliance issues," James Pardew, President Bill Clinton's special representative for Kosovo implementation, said after four hours of talks with Mr. Milosevic.

"It was not a productive meeting," Mr. Pardew said as he and the principal U.S. mediator for Kosovo, Chris Hill, returned to their hotel.

Mr. Pardew said Mr. Milosevic "denies any Serb involvement in the massacre at Racak," a reference to the discovery by American verifiers last weekend of the bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians killed in a village near Pristina.

Serbian authorities declared William Walker, the American head of the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe verifier mission in Kosovo, persona non grata and ordered him expelled, after he blamed Serb authorities for the killings.

The alleged massacre, plus the expulsion order on Mr. Walker, prompted a new NATO buildup to prepare for air strikes against Serbia. Asked about Mr. Walker's fate, Mr. Pardew said only, "Walker is in Pristina," the capital of Kosovo.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that all 750 international monitors would be pulled out of Kosovo unless Mr. Milosevic allowed Mr. Walker to stay as head of a truce verification mission.

The Yugoslav government had ordered Mr. Walker to leave the country by 5 P.M. Thursday.

As the deadline for his leaving the country approached, Mr. Walker canceled a trip to Belgrade and confined himself to his headquarters in Pristina.

An aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Walker would spend the night on his office couch.

"He's not leaving now," said the group's spokesman, Jorgen Grunnet, telling reporters about the decision to

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Cambodia Weighs Fate of Genocide Collaborators

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

PHUM THMEI, Cambodia — "If I killed anyone, you can kill me back," said Neang Kin, her hair matted and her clothes stained reddish-brown from her work in the flooded rice fields. "I swear to God and swear to die in front of my children. I faint at the sight of blood."

Khmer Rouge personnel files at Tuol Sleng prison and Mrs. Neang Kin's own confession 20 years ago tell a different story. According to these records, she was one of many thousands of functionaries who carried out the brutal policies that led to the deaths of more than a million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979.

Mrs. Neang Kin, who guesses her age at 48, once confessed to assisting in the torture of 300 people at the prison and even to taking part in administering electric shocks. A subsistence farmer now, she desperately denies that confession.

As Cambodia and the outside world prepare for the

possibility of trials for perhaps a dozen Khmer Rouge leaders, a large unanswered — and generally unasked — question is how to deal with the people who actually took part in the torture and the killing, or even how to think of them.

"There are a lot of people like her on file," said Youk Chhang, director of the Documentation Center

has she confessed that he supports a Khmer Rouge trial, but raises questions. Page 4.

of Cambodia, a private agency that is collecting evidence of Khmer Rouge crimes. His investigators have talked with Mrs. Neang Kin three times.

"This is going to be a very classic case for the lawyers to determine who should be responsible," he said. "Even though I personally believe only the leaders should be brought to justice, we need to clarify this for the younger generation to understand. This woman is like a first-hand killer. Why

should only the top leaders take responsibility?" The documents show that Mrs. Neang Kin spent 18 months in prison after her confession in 1979. She said the recent surrender of two Khmer Rouge leaders has filled her with mixed emotions: anger at their apparent impunity but fear that if trials are held, she may once again be a target.

She said she resented some former Khmer Rouge colleagues who have done well for themselves in recent years, buying motorbikes and televisions or emigrating to the United States. Abandoned years ago by her husband, Mrs. Neang Kin grows rice, beans and corn to support her parents and teenage daughter.

Her file at Tuol Sleng prison, in Phnom Penh, describes her as having been a "group chief," though it does not specify her duties. Like similar files, it includes an expressionless portrait that is indistinguishable from those taken of the 14,000 prisoners who passed through the torture house en

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U.S. Plan Threatens Moscow Arms Pact

Clinton Decision on Missile Defense Could Doom START-2, Russians Say

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The Clinton administration's decision to move ahead with a national ballistic missile defense system could stifle any last hopes that the Russian Parliament will approve the START-2 strategic arms treaty, Russian specialists said Thursday.

The announcement by Defense Sec-

retary William Cohen appeared certain to aggravate relations between Moscow and Washington, which got off to a tense beginning this year with U.S. sanctions against Russian scientific centers, diverging views over Iraq and Kosovo and Russian impatience over Western debt relief and loans.

The Clinton administration pledged Wednesday to spend \$6.6 billion over five years to field a national missile defense system and said it would seek unspecified changes in the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. The treaty sharply limits the development of missile defenses. Mr. Cohen said the United States might pull out of the treaty if Russia does not agree to changes.

Although it will be years before such a system could be deployed, the an-

nouncement nonetheless marked a turning point. Until now, the administration had expressed doubt about whether such a missile defense system was necessary or feasible. Russia has long expressed opposition to any changes to the treaty.

The START-2 treaty was close to ratification last year before the attack on Iraq, which triggered a backlash in the lower house of the Russian Parliament, the State Duma, and caused a postponement. The START-2 treaty, which would cut both sides' nuclear arsenals nearly in half, was signed in 1992 and ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1996 but has never been approved by the Duma.

President Bill Clinton sent a letter to President Boris Yeltsin warning him of the impending U.S. announcement on

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A German ground crewman checking a missile Thursday on a jet at the San Damiano air base in northern Italy, ready for action over Kosovo.

Holbrooke Is Accused of Violating Ethics Law

By Philip Shenon
and David Johnston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has accused Richard Holbrooke, President Bill Clinton's choice to be the top American diplomat at the United Nations, of a civil violation of federal ethics laws involving business contacts three years ago with the U.S. Embassy in South Korea, government officials said.

Friends of Mr. Holbrooke said he had

balked at paying a fine of several thousand dollars demanded by the Justice Department because he believed he had done nothing wrong. They said he was also concerned that a financial settlement of the case might be seen as an admission of wrongdoing that could derail his nomination.

The Justice Department investigation began last year as a result of allegations that Mr. Holbrooke had improperly lobbied officials at the U.S. Embassy in Hungary in 1995. But officials disclosed Wednesday that prosecutors had

turned up no evidence of wrongdoing by Mr. Holbrooke in that case.

Prosecutors later turned their attention to allegations involving contacts in 1996 with the embassy in Seoul.

Government officials said those allegations proved to be more serious. They said that if Mr. Holbrooke refused to pay a fine to settle those charges, the Justice Department would consider filing a civil lawsuit against the veteran diplomat, delaying his nomination to the UN post indefinitely.

The allegations against Mr. Hol-

brooke involve contacts he had with at least one former State Department colleague at the embassy in Seoul within months of his resignation from the department in February 1996 to join the investment banking company Credit Suisse First Boston in New York.

A friend of Mr. Holbrooke would not describe the nature of the contacts with the embassy but said they were "ridiculously minor" and offered no financial reward for Mr. Holbrooke or his

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AGENDA

UN Security Council Backs Angola Role

The Dollar	Thursday 8 A.M.	previous close
New York	1.1802	1.1565
Euro	1.6515	1.6438
Pound	1.137	1.1255
Yen	1.6867	1.6917
DM	5.6568	5.6737

The Dow	Thursday close	percent change
71.83	9,264.08	-0.77%

S&P 500	Thursday close	percent change
21.38	1,235.17	-1.70%

Nasdaq	Thursday close	percent change
70.34	2,944.88	-2.91%

UNITED NATIONS, New York (AP) — The Security Council said Thursday it intended to maintain a UN presence in Angola despite the resumption of civil war and a recommendation by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to withdraw UN observers.

The council said a continued presence would depend on the safety of personnel and would require the approval of the Angolan government, which has said it does not want the current mission to remain beyond the expiration of its mandate Feb. 26.

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Italy	3.000 Lire	Spain	250 Ptas
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WASHINGTON — It has been nearly three decades since Dr. Denis Burkitt, a British missionary surgeon who studied the differences in diseases between poor Africans and affluent Westerners, postulated that the Africans' high-fiber diet protected them against colon cancer. He spread his thesis as dietary gospel, prompting millions to change their diets.

By Sheryl Stolberg
New York Times Service

Now the largest study ever to examine Dr. Burkitt's theory has found that, at least when it comes to preventing colon cancer, all those fruits, vegetables and cereals do not do any good.

The research, conducted by a team from Harvard University and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, tracked the eating habits of more than 88,000 female nurses over 16 years and found that women who ate a high-fiber diet were no less likely to develop colorectal cancer or polyps, which can be a precursor to cancer, than those who ate little fiber.

The findings were, for the most part, the same no matter what type of fiber the study subjects ate, or how fassidious their habits — whether they smoked or did not smoke, whether they exercised regularly or sat on the couch and watched television.

The researchers and others commenting on their findings noted that the study had its limitations. For example, many scientists believe that men and women respond differently from each other to

dietary fat and fiber, and the study group involved only women. Still, the study adds to research suggesting that when it comes to colorectal cancer, the benefits of fiber have yet to be proved.

"We really can't substantiate a protective effect of fiber on the rates and risk of colon cancer," said Dr. Charles Fuchs, a medical oncologist at Brigham and Women's and the lead author of the study, which appeared in the Thursday issue of the

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Forget Tofu and Oat Bran: No Sign They Prevent Colon Cancer

By Sheryl Stolberg
New York Times Service

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Unhappy Trails / Environmentalists Target Mountain Resorts

Ski Conditions: Accumulation Of Lawsuits

By James Brooke
New York Times Service

GEORGETOWN, Colorado — In a few days, skiers here are to inaugurate the highest chairlift in the world. Whisking 1,200 people an hour to a 12,700-foot ridge, the lift will offer sweeping views of the Rockies and challenging runs down the Continental Divide.

But in a sign of changing times in the most popular skiing state in America, a Colorado environmentalist is suing, charging that Loveland Ski Area, the owner of the lift to the 4,200-meter site, has violated its permit for building on National Forest Service land.

After fighting logging, mining and cattle grazing on National Forest lands, environmentalists declared open season this winter on ski areas, once a seemingly wholesome presence in the landscape. The expansion of ski areas, mostly on public land, that once aroused little opposition is being fought by groups that are angry over growing real-estate development on adjacent private land.

Increasingly run by publicly traded corporations, ski areas are turning to mountain real estate as a source of big profits in the future. In contrast, the number of lift tickets sold across the United States each winter has been stagnant for a decade, at around 53 million. In that period, ticket sales in Colorado increased by about 20 percent, but the state has seen ticket sales drop 11 percent this season as some resorts endured the worst snow conditions in 40 years during the Christmas season.

"It is not about skiing, it is about real-estate development," said Jonathan Stauffer, a shop owner in Vail who is chairman of the Ski Area Citizens Coalition, a new environmental group. "Industrial tourism is posing the next major threat to wild places in Colorado and America."

Here in the Rockies, signs of growth abound.

Directly below Loveland's new Cootenotail Divide chairlift, but muffled by a quarter mile of granite, traffic on Interstate 70 regularly slows to a crawl in the Eisenhower Tunnel, a major link between the busiest ski areas in Colorado and the 2 million residents of the Denver area. In 25 years, traffic has quadrupled in the tunnel, 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of Denver. In the 75 miles between here and Eagle-Vail Airport, enough home construction is planned to



The expansion of National Park land ski areas — with lifts such as this new one at Loveland Ski Area in Colorado — is being fought by environmental groups that are angry over growing real-estate development on adjacent private land.

double the populations of several towns in five years. A rural airstrip in 1990, the airport is the second busiest in Colorado this winter, offering direct jet service to 13 cities, including New York and San Francisco.

In the last decade, while the volume of timber cut in National Forests fell by two-thirds, the number of recreational visitors jumped by 40 percent. The U.S. Forest Service predicts it will record 1 billion recreational visits a year by 2010.

"Now we see lawsuits, not only against oil, gas and mining, but also to stop recreational use," the chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck, said in Denver recently, after encountering protesters objecting to an expansion of Vail in National Forest land.

In Colorado, where most skiing is done on National Forest land, the conflict flared into the public eye in October when an amorphous group, the Environmental Liberation Front, protested the expansion of Vail's ski slopes by burning three buildings and damaging four lifts.

But in less dramatic fights, Colorado environmentalists are lobbying federal agencies in black new trails at the Keystone and Breckenridge ski resorts. Nearby, at Arapahoe Basin, they are trying to block the installation of a snowmaking system that would let the area fulfill its dream of offering skiing year round.

Elsewhere in the West, environmentalists are

fighting construction of a new ski area, Pelican Butte, in southern Oregon, and the expansion of Snowbasin in Utah. In recent months, the Forest Service overrode objections to the expansion of the Santa Fe ski area in New Mexico, but rejected a proposed ski area for Mount Shasta in Northern California.

This month in Colorado, in the face of strong local opposition, a consortium of Vermont and Colorado developers abandoned plans to build a ski area 10 miles south of Steamboat Springs, which would have been called Catamount. In addition to the ski slopes, the developers planned 3,700 homes and 1,000 hotel rooms.

"They had the resources, and they had the permits," said Susan Otis, executive director of the Yampa Valley Land Trust. "But they knew that in the community there no longer was a desire to have a new ski area."

The developers gave the Yampa Valley trust conservation easements preserving a swath of pasture and announced plans to build 40 luxury homes and a lodge at the site.

Census figures show that Colorado has the third-fastest-growing population in the nation, after Nevada and Arizona. Now, defenders of the fragile lands in the Rockies are also worried that out-of-state demographic pressures will result in a proliferation of second-home developments and swelling crowds at ski areas.

The average age of a second-home buyer in the United States is 51. Over the next 18 years, 78

million Americans are to turn 51. Their children number 72 million and are expected to pack ski areas again. The in-between group of people over 20s and 30s numbers only 44 million.

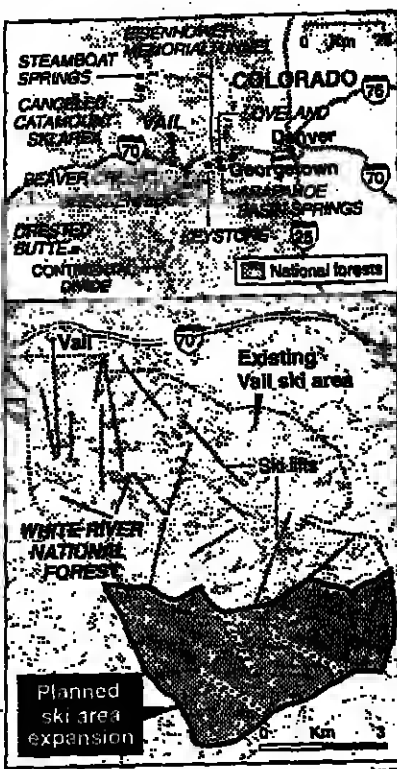
"The fight over land use is really just starting, because you are talking of a burgeoning population of residents and visitors," said Diane Ganssner, executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, a conservation group composed largely of hunters and anglers. "I don't buy the view of wildlife that accepts deer as lawn ornaments."

At public hearings in Vail last spring, one resident drew applause when he said, "We want to look at trophy elk, not trophy homes."

Partly because of a Forest Service policy in Colorado to favor expansion of existing ski areas over the construction of new ones, and fights waged by environmentalists against new ski areas, the last one to open on National Forest land in the state was Beaver Creek, in 1980.

In the lawsuit against Loveland, the environmentalist, Steven Hannoo, asserts that the Forest Service awarded a permit for a short surface lift and then allowed the ski area to nearly triple the length of the lift and to change it to a chairlift.

Ken Abrahamson, general manager of the ski area, which is fighting the suit in the U.S. District Court in Denver, said: "The Forest Service approved putting skiers on top of the ridge. We followed the process from A to Z."



Cruel Killings Laid to Rebels Retreating in Sierra Leone

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Rebels being driven out of Sierra Leone's war-torn capital of Freetown have mutilated people and adopted a scorched-earth policy, the captain of the British Navy frigate Norfolk reported Thursday.

Many bodies of victims caught in the fighting have been floating past the frigate, Commander Bruce Williams said.

The Nigerian-led West African peace force in Sierra Leone reported Wednesday that it had cleared rebels from the Kissy port area of Freetown and was arranging protection for ships waiting to deliver urgently needed food and medicines.

Commander Williams, speaking by telephone from a point off Freetown, said there had been a violent battle for control of the port, with the worst fighting in the eastern end of the capital.

"There are many cases of mutilations, with arms and hands chopped off those who tried to resist rebel activities," he said. "They have not acted with any decorum or principles."

"The number of bodies we see floating past the ship indicate there has been serious activity ashore," he added.

Commander Williams, whose frigate has been providing humanitarian and logistical support to the peace force, said one of every three houses in Freetown had been destroyed in the eastern part of the capital.

"Whenever they move out of somewhere and come under threat, they start to burn," he said of the rebels. "Whole areas have been razed to the east. Fires are still burning."

Military sources said that the intervention troops had the rebels surrounded in Freetown, depriving them of any way out of a battered city that is facing disease and starvation.

French helicopter pilots under contract to the peace mission said armed men identified as rebels of the Revolutionary United Front were spotted Wednesday in villages of the Songo district, in the east of the peninsula.

But sources in the intervention force said that sweeps against rebel units would contain them on the high ground of the peninsula.

A Health Ministry statement said that more than 1,000 bodies had been collected in the area near the main Connaught Hospital in the center of Freetown. That district represents barely a tenth of the capital.

Hospital staff said that many wounded people were dying because of acute shortages of medical supplies.

"We are lacking everything — gauze, cotton material, operating fields, antiseptic," a doctor said as he treated a girl with a badly wounded leg. "Please help us."

Most medical supplies have come from the UN Children's Fund and were already stored here before the fighting broke out in early January.

"Our biggest worry right now is the outbreak of cholera," the doctor said.

Another serious concern for Freetown residents is the dwindling of food stocks because the city has been cut off from resupply. During lulls in the fighting, residents have walked great distances in a search for bread.

Nevertheless, signs that life was returning to a semblance of normalcy have emerged in western Freetown, where buses and cars were on the streets. (Reuters/AFIP)



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TRAVEL UPDATE

U.K. Advises Against Yemen Visits

LONDON (AFP) — The Foreign Office, reacting to a series of kidnappings in Yemen, has warned Britons against traveling to that country and urged those living there to leave if their presence is not essential.

The Foreign Office last night advised British nationals against travel to Yemen, "a statement released Thursday said."

On Dec. 28, 16 Westerners were taken hostage by Islamist gunmen. Three of them, two Britons and an Australian, were killed on Dec. 30 as the others were rescued by security forces. Since then, there have been two kidnappings, one on Jan. 9 of a British oil worker, who was released unharmed on Jan. 13, and another Sunday of two Britons and four Dutch nationals.

U.S. Air-Control Update Advances

AUBURN, Washington (AP) — New equipment that is intended to provide more reliable air-traffic control across the United States by the summer of 2000 has been inaugurated first in the Pacific Northwest.

Jane Garvey, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration, helped dedicate the system Wednesday at the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center, responsible for flights over Washington, most of Oregon and parts of Idaho, Montana, California and Nevada.

The old vacuum-tube radar display was prone to breakdown, but the update, in use for a month, is not immune to glitches. Last Friday, a battery failure during a check of backup power led to a 35-minute radar shutdown, delaying hundreds of flights.

U.S. and Kenya Discuss Air Links

NAIROBI — Kenya and the United States signed a memorandum of consultations Thursday on renewing direct air links between the two countries. There has been no direct link between the two countries since Trans-World Airways and Pan American Airlines stopped service in 1991.

In two days of talks, A. Bradley Mims, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of transportation, emphasized the importance of safety and security, the U.S. Information Agency said.



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New Battle of Berlin: City Resists U.S. Stance on Embassy Security

Reuters

BERLIN — A dispute over security requirements for a U.S. Embassy building in Berlin could lead to delays in its construction, American diplomats said Thursday.

An embassy press officer, Anne Chernak, said the United States required a minimum of 30 meters (nearly 100 feet) between the building and adjacent streets to protect it from the direct blast of car or truck bombs like those that ripped through embassy buildings in Kenya and Tanzania last summer.

The spokeswoman said U.S. government officials were locked in a dispute with the Berlin regional government over rerouting two streets adjacent to the embassy site next to the Brandenburg Gate, one of Berlin's most famous landmarks.

A Berlin traffic official said agreeing to such demands would mean a deep intrusion into the Tiergarten, Berlin's famed central park, as well as into land set aside for a memorial to Jewish victims of Nazism.

Berlin's city center would be turned upside down, the traffic official said. The embassy was said to be waiting for an official response from the Berlin government and to have said that construction could not begin without a decision on security issues.

The explosions in Africa last year killed 263 people in Kenya and Tanzania, including 12 Americans, and injured thousands.

The Berlin building, which is planned on the site of the prewar U.S. mission, is to house the first American Embassy in Berlin since 1941.

The German government is planning to move its ministries and other offices to Berlin from Bonn this year.

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe Today High Low W Tomorrow High Low W

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THE AMERICAS

A Key Foe Says Clinton Has 'Won'

Rightist Evangelist Sees No Use in Finishing Trial

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Pat Robertson, the conservative television evangelist who has been an important leader in pressing for the impeachment and ouster of President Bill Clinton, says that the president "hit a home run" in his State of the Union address and that the impeachment trial might as well be halted.

While Mr. Robertson's remarks were the most dramatic, he was only one of many prominent Republicans around the country who said that Mr. Clinton's speech Tuesday was an unsettling reminder that their party cannot compete with the president's political skills — and that the impeachment trial can only endanger their prospects in competitive states.

"From a public-relations standpoint, he's won," Mr. Robertson said Wednesday on his television program, "The 700 Club." "They might as well dismiss this impeachment hearing and get on with something else, because it's over as far as I'm concerned."

The comments by Mr. Robertson, who is the founder and chairman of the Christian Coalition and was a candidate for president in 1988, marked a stunning reversal because he had for months urged the ouster of Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Robertson's remarks carry great weight because he is one of the most popular and influential Christian conservatives; many leading Republicans, including presidential candidates, take their cues from him. His comments could also provide cover for Republicans who have felt pressure to move forward for impeachment so as not to alienate their conservative supporters.

But Mr. Robertson's remarks brought a stern reaction from one of the House prosecutors in the impeachment trial.

"It's discouraging, because he's missing the point," said one of the prosecutors, Representative Christopher Cannon, Republican of Utah. "This is not a PR war; this is a matter of law."

Mr. Robertson sought Wednesday night to temper his remarks. A spokesman quoted him as saying: "I was speaking in my capacity as a political analyst. I was not advocating this, nor do I favor this. But it was my view that this is how things are likely to play out."



Three Democratic senators discussing the impeachment trial at the end of a day's session on Capitol Hill. From left, Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, Richard Durbin of Illinois and Barbara Boxer of California.

A President Gore? And for 10 Years?

If Clinton Went Now, His Successor Could Serve More Than 2 Terms

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Although the chances of President Bill Clinton resigning or being removed from office now appear small, the impeachment crisis raises at least the technical possibility that Vice President Al Gore could become the second-longest serving president in U.S. history.

Under the 22d Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, proposed in 1947 in response to Franklin D. Roosevelt's four-term presidency and ratified in 1951 (though it explicitly did not apply to President Harry Truman, then in office), presidents are limited to two terms.

But if a person succeeds to the presidency more than halfway through another president's term, he or she may still be elected twice.

Mr. Clinton was sworn in for his second term Jan. 20, 1997. As of midnight Wednesday, he had served exactly half his allotted four years.

If Mr. Gore, through some seemingly unlikely turn in the impeachment drama, were to step into the office soon, he could — if elected to the presidency in 2000 and 2004 — serve nearly 10 years. That would be longer than anyone but Roosevelt, who died of a cerebral hemorrhage during his fourth term, having served 12 years and one month.

Several political analysts described such a scenario as highly unlikely, saying that Mr. Clinton is almost certain to survive the impeachment trial under way in the Senate.

But should he not, the analysts said, Mr. Gore would probably enjoy a major advantage in seeking election in 2000, with many Americans of both parties rallying behind him in the name of sympathy, stability or continuity.

"Gore, as an incumbent, would have to be the odds-on favorite," said Allan Lichtman, professor of history at American University and a specialist in the dynamics of presidential campaigns. "It would mean a lot, it would almost guarantee a Democratic win in 2000."

Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, also said that a President Gore would enjoy a major edge approaching the 2000 election.

"If we were already president," Mr. Mann said, "it would probably mean that there would be no challenge at all for the nomination and that itself is a big boost. The divisiveness that develops in contested nominations tends to weaken a party."

But how a President Gore would do in 2000 would depend partly on how he had reached the office, said Stephen Wayne, a history professor at Georgetown University in Washington and author of books on the presidency.

"If President Clinton were impeached and removed from office," he said, "public opinion presumably would have had to change as a consequence of the Senate trial sufficiently to swing those Democratic senators over to vote against him. The taint likely would extend to Gore."

But could Mr. Gore spend 10 years as president? That would mean that the Oval Office would have had a Democratic occupant for 16 years — the longest domination of the presidency by one party since the Roosevelt-Truman years. Mr. Mann said he doubted the Democrats could do that.

"A collection of grievances accumulates with a sitting administration," he said. "Times turn, the economy sours, the public finally throws the rascals out."

Senators Back States On Tobacco Funds

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators vowed Thursday that they would promote legislation to thwart a federal effort to take a share of the \$246 billion in settlements reached by the states with the tobacco industry.

The Washington state attorney general, Christine Gregoire, said the states would sue the federal government "the first time a penny is deducted" from the states.

The federal government's claim to part of the settlement is "absolutely wrong, and we're going to fight it every step of the way," said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas.

She joined Bob Graham, Democrat of Florida; Slade Gorton, Republican of Washington; Evan Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, and George Voinovich, Republican of Ohio, in voicing their support for the states.

The federal government was not involved in the lawsuits by four states that won \$40 billion from the tobacco industry nor the settlement last autumn in which the other 46 states won \$206 billion, Senator Graham stressed.

Republicans Likely To Keep Chairman

WASHINGTON — They said he was a poor communicator. They said he had no vision. They said he doesn't do so hot on television.

But many Republican National Committee members say they expect Chairman Jim Nicholson will be re-elected anyway when the votes are cast at the party's general session Friday. Even some of those who have been critical said they'll vote for Mr. Nicholson, at least partly because they're not convinced that his opponent, Tom Slade, the Florida party chairman, is the answer.

Mr. Slade, who has had success building his party into a dominant force in Florida, has strong support across the South but little elsewhere, several sources said.

"We've received 118 written endorsements" out of 165 Republican National Committee voting members, said Chris DePaula, Mr. Nicholson's campaign manager. "But we're absolutely taking nothing for granted."

Whatever his faults, Mr. Nicholson has been far too good a fund-raiser and manager to dump, supporters said.

But even if Mr. Nicholson, 60, wins re-election, he faces continued scrutiny from other party officials.

"I am for Jim Nicholson, but I think there is large room for improvement," the Michigan party chairwoman, Betsy DeVos, said Wednesday. "Especially on the agenda, the issues and how things are going to happen." (WP)

Clinton Spells Out Education Initiative

WASHINGTON — Back home following a campaign-style trip to sell his 1999 legislative agenda, President Bill Clinton on Thursday gave the details of education proposals aimed at helping schools hire more teachers and ensure they are qualified to teach.

Amy Weiss, a White House spokeswoman, said the initiatives would enable schools to "attract talented, well-prepared teachers into our classrooms."

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Mr. Clinton called on all states to require new teachers to pass performance exams, and said instructors should have at least minor in the area they teach. Today, 38 states require teachers to take tests to measure their knowledge before they can receive a teaching certificate. Thursday's announcement included:

• A \$200 million increase over this year's spending on Mr. Clinton's initiative to fund the hiring of 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in grades one to three.

• \$35 million for scholarships for outstanding students who pledge to become teachers in impoverished school districts.

• \$18 million to extend the Troops-to-Teachers program, which trains retired military personnel to teach in public schools.

• A new \$10-million program to recruit and train 1,000 American Indian teachers who commit to teach in areas heavily populated by Indians.

"He's proposing a lot of things that sound appealing," Lisa Fornaris, a third-grade teacher at Kings Park Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, said in an interview Wednesday. "But it tends to get political, and it's important to hear what the parents have to say and what the teachers and students need." (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Former Vice President Dan Quayle as he prepares to outline his plan to seek the Republican nomination for the presidency in 2000: "It's going to be different for me this time around, running for president. I will be in control. My agenda. My campaign. My staff." (AP)



Dan Quayle: Different this time.

Colombian Peace Process Set Back by Rebels' Exit

Leftists Quit Talks to Protest Militia Killings

By Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

BOGOTA — The announcement by the most powerful rebel group in Colombia that it is suspending peace talks with the government came as a bitter disappointment to Colombians who regarded the nascent peace process as perhaps the best hope yet for ending the civil war in their country.

Less than two weeks after President Andres Pastrana and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia began talks in the town of San Vicente del Caguan, the leftist guerrilla group declared it was pulling out of the talks until the government cracks down on rightist paramilitary "death squads."

The announcement was made Tuesday after rightist militiamen in five provinces killed 140 people whom they accused of sympathizing with the guerrillas. The rebel group says the military was involved in the massacres — an accusation that military leaders deny.

Saying he was "surprised and concerned" by the rebels' decision, the presidential peace envoy, Victor Ricardo, insisted Wednesday that Bogota is doing all it can to reign in the militias.

Since taking office in August, Mr. Pastrana has staked much of his national and international prestige on ending the 34-year war, in which tens of thousands have died and nearly a million have been displaced. To build confidence among the rebels, Mr. Pastrana withdrew troops last autumn from a huge area of southeastern Colombia.

Mr. Pastrana also met President Fidel Castro of Cuba recently in Havana and is believed to have solicited his help in dealing with the rebels, who control an estimated 40 percent of the countryside. But with the announcement Tuesday, the high expectations surrounding the peace initiative have given way to disappointment and fear.

"We consider it necessary to freeze the talks and leave our proposals on the table until we see satisfactory results in the fight against the paramilitaries," the rebel group said.

The announcement prompted the delay until next week of separate talks that had been planned for Wednesday on a rebel proposal to exchange 452 imprisoned rebels for more than 350 captive soldiers and police officers.

Meanwhile, government officials said Wednesday that the issue of militia groups should be treated separately from the peace talks. Officials also said they would send negotiators to the next round of talks, scheduled for Sunday and Monday, even though the rebels have said they will not participate.

Raul Reyes, a rebel leader, described Colombian political and business leaders as "silent accomplices" of death squads for failing to speak out against their latest abuses. "We Colombians are drowning in blood from the slaughter of the unarmed civilian population by paramilitaries in coordination with the military," he said.

The armed forces have long been accused by human rights groups and others of supporting death squads.

Mr. Pastrana said this week that a special military unit would be created to pursue the estimated 5,000 militiamen, who operate in an alliance known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia with the support of wealthy landowners. The militia members say they defend citizens against kidnapping, extortion and murders by rebels.

"What is lacking here are clear steps by the Pastrana administration to dismantle and isolate these groups as part of an overall peace strategy," said Jose Miguel Vivanco of Human Rights Watch.



WELCOME WAGON — People in Boca Raton, Florida, passing Haitian refugees waiting for a U.S. Border Patrol van to pick them up. Along with 14 other Haitians, they were arrested after arriving by boat.

Away From Politics

• An outsider breached the Internet security of the U.S. Information Agency last week, knocking its Web site out of action and forcing the agency to re-evaluate its computer protection, a USIA official said. The hacker diverted users to other locations before dismantling the site. (NYT)

• A Florida judge sentenced an armored-car guard to 25 years in prison. Philip Noel Johnson, 35, was convicted of robbing his own company of \$19 million. The defendant sobbed and apologized to his victims, saying he pulled off the biggest cash heist in U.S. history because he wanted to help the poor. (Reuters)

• The federal government has taken title to 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) of desert land overlooking Joshua Tree National Park, the first installment in a deal aimed at preserving a California desert from development. The spot marks the boundary between the golf greens of Palm Springs and arid mountains where bighorn sheep are fast disappearing. (AP)

• Mark Arlo Sheppard, 27, was executed by injection in Jarratt, Virginia. He was convicted in the shootings of Richard and Rebecca Rosenbluth but insisted that he was not the killer. (AP)

AMERICAN TOPICS

A TV-Homogenized America? Listen to the Babel of Accents

Those who lament the largely TV-driven homogenization of America can take heart in recent linguistic research. Local accents are growing stronger than ever in some parts of the country, a University of Pennsylvania linguistic team has found in a three-year study.

The research flies in the face of theories that an increasingly transient population, immigration from abroad, and the omnipresent mass media are eating away at dialects and accents,

according to U.S. News & World Report. "In almost every city there is active change in pronunciation," said the Pennsylvania team leader, William Labov. "The dialects of Chicago, New York, Birmingham and St. Louis are much more different from each other than they ever were."

Thus, in Chicago and Detroit the word *Ked* (as in the sneaker) now sounds more like "cud." And "pat," sounds like "piat." In Birmingham, Alabama and Tulsa, Oklahoma, *Ked* sounds more like "kid" or "key-ed." In Philadelphia, the letter "i" is disappearing from words like "dollar." So you would ask a shoe salesman not for a pair of New Balance shoes, but for "New Bounce." And the Boston accent ("pahk the cah in Hahvahd Yadd") remains healthy.

Southerners cling to their distinctly Dixie pronunciations, Mr. Labov's team found, though in cities like Dallas and Atlanta mi-

gration from the North has affected accents. Young people refer to themselves as "I," not the traditional "Ah."

The strength of regional accents is comforting to many. It ensures "cultural variety within our larger civilization," said Alan Jabbour of the Library of Congress. "If we're all doing the same thing, where does the innovation come from?"

Short Takes

One of the more ambitious recycling projects in New York City is in one of the least likely addresses: Rikers Island, home to 10 jails and 16,000 inmates. Its prisoners run New York's largest community garden, harvesting 30,000 pounds of vegetables a year, which they grow with the help of compost from six tons of food scraps and packaging a day.

Inmate-gardeners (guards keep close count

on the shears and pitchforks) take classes on garden design, plant care and other horticultural topics. There is a Zen meditation pond, an ornamental grass garden and a native woodlands area. The New York Times reports.

Officials hope lessons learned in the program will help inmates find work when they are released, and help the city meet its goal of eventually composting all its garbage. That might be a good thing for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who recently found himself in hot water after suggesting that the people of Virginia should be happy to get the thousands of tons of waste that his city now trucks to that state each day.

The navy, confronting a shortage of sailors, will lower its educational standards for recruits. It had required that 95 percent of new recruits have high school diplomas; that will be lowered to 90 percent. Last year the navy fell short of

recruiting goal for the first time since 1973, enlisting 12 percent fewer recruits than it needed. Some ships had to put to sea with less than full crews. The shortages are attributed to the booming economy, and to a rise in the number of young people who go straight to college after completing high school.

A Maine college is trying to prove that its degrees are worth the money, even if students do not find jobs immediately upon graduation. If a graduate is still unemployed six months after commencement, Thomas College will pay off a year's worth of the student's federally subsidized loans, reports The Chronicle of Higher Education. Graduates are, of course, required to have made a "reasonable effort" to find a job.

Brian Knowlton

Sudden Exit Of Top Libera- •Harms Blair Plan for Unit

EUROPE

Germany Holds Firm In Nuclear Waste Rift

It Refuses to Compensate Britain and France

By John Schmid
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — German tensions with France and Britain over Bonn's ban on nuclear-waste treatment continued to escalate Thursday.

Clinging to a position that has already sharply irritated London and Paris, the German environment minister, Juergen Trittin, told Parliament he would refuse to compensate nuclear waste reprocessing plants in France and Britain.

They stand to lose billions of dollars in business under the phased withdrawal

from nuclear energy undertaken by the new leftist German government.

France and Britain warned Germany that its ban on reprocessing spent fuel, which goes into effect next January, would violate binding, long-term contracts with British Nuclear Fuels PLC and the French state-owned reprocessing firm Cogema.

Germany has no plants to reprocess the fuel from its own reactors.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France insisted Thursday that Germany pay "appropriate compensation," saying Germany must honor international agreements.

"There is no reason to pour oil on the fire, but we have every reason to defend our legitimate interests," Mr. Jospin said.

The issue threatens to strain German relations with the two major European partners just as Bonn has assumed the rotating six-month presidency of the European Union.

In Paris this week, the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, a member of the anti-nuclear Greens, said he hoped the reprocessing issue would not damage French-German ties.

"There is no legal basis for compensation claims in the event there is a law change banning reprocessing," Mr. Trittin told legislators.

Mr. Trittin, the environment minister and also a leader in the Greens, said the election of a new government and creation of new laws amount to a force majeure, a term typically used in the energy industry when violent storms interrupt oil deliveries.

Fuel-reprocessing contracts represent private sector business and not international treaties, the Environmental Ministry argued.

Mr. Trittin shuttled between France and England this week but was unable to resolve the dispute.

The French industry secretary, Christian Pierret, rejected a compromise proposal by Mr. Trittin.

Under the proposal, Germany could give Cogema replacement business to package and prepare hundreds of tons of unprocessed fuel so it could be shipped back to Germany, which would have to accept the return of its spent fuel if it broke the contracts.

"It is not a serious proposal," Mr. Pierret said. "Compensation should be the logical conclusion of Germany's decision."

Cogema stands to lose an estimated 30 billion French francs (\$4.6 billion) and British Nuclear Fuels about £1.2 billion (\$1.9 billion).

In Cogema's case, the contracts run as far as the year 2014.

The trade rift comes just ahead of a round of "consensus talks" that will begin Tuesday in Bonn.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder hopes to find a common approach with industry on the government's pledge to phase out the 19 German nuclear plants as quickly as possible. Industry argues that withdrawal could take 20 to 40 years.

Initially, the political fallout was limited to Mr. Schroeder's two-party coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, but tensions quickly spread.

Sudden Exit Of Top Liberal Harms Blair's Plan for Unity

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — As a Labour leader with an overwhelming parliamentary majority, Prime Minister Tony Blair has surprised and dismayed many members of his party by attempting to forge a lasting form of cooperation, verging on coalition, with the third party in Britain, the Liberal Democrats.

But after weeks of mounting Labour criticism over the cooperation, Mr. Blair's efforts to redraw British political boundaries suffered an unexpected blow with the sudden resignation of Paddy Ashdown as leader of the Liberal Democrats.

The announcement by Mr. Ashdown late Wednesday opened the way for a leadership bid by a younger generation of Liberal politicians more critical of government policies and wary of too close an association with Labour.

It also underscored the fact that for all of Mr. Blair's promises of cooperation, he has failed to commit himself to introducing proportional representation in Parliament or to joining the euro, the Liberals' two biggest aims.

The resignation was greeted with delight by Labour opponents of cooperation. Since Mr. Blair decided in November to give the Liberals a say on European foreign policy as well as constitutional reform, several leading Labour party members, including Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, have openly criticized the arrangement.

As a result, many politicians and analysts were speaking of Mr. Ashdown's move as a potentially fatal blow to what aides of Mr. Blair call "the project," a permanent rapprochement of Liberals and Labour that could allow a non-socialist center-left to dominate British politics at the beginning of the 21st century just as the Conservative Party dominated this century.

Mr. Blair insisted Thursday that he remained determined to pursue cooperation with the Liberals. "People want a new form of politics not stuck in rigid tribal boundaries," he said. "For that reason, I have no doubt that what myself and Paddy Ashdown have built up over the year will remain."

Mr. Ashdown also spoke of a "compelling logic" for continued cooperation, but he drew attention to policy differences by promising to use the time before he stepped down in June to press Mr. Blair on proportional representation and the euro.

He is unlikely to make much headway. Mr. Blair has repeatedly ruled out holding a referendum on the euro before the next general election, expected in 2001 or 2002. And although he set up a commission that recently proposed introducing proportional representation in Parliament, which could give the Liberals a swing role in European-style coalition governments, he has carefully refused to endorse the idea.

"I don't think there's a cat in hell's chance of getting proportional representation," Dennis Skinner, a Labour member of Parliament, said. "It couldn't get through the House of Commons, and it couldn't get through a referendum."

The Liberal leadership appeared likely to pass to a younger generation. Mr. Ashdown has indicated support for Nick Harvey, 37, the party's campaign chief, who is a supporter of cooperation with Labour. But two other leading candidates, Charles Kennedy and Simon Hughes, have criticized the recent decision to extend cooperation into foreign policy.

Whoever wins will inherit a party transformed during the decade-long leadership of Mr. Ashdown. The former marine commander and diplomat took over a party in ruins after the collapse of its alliance with the now-defunct Social Democrats in 1988.

The Liberals were briefly pushed out of third place by the small Green Party before recovering on the strength of grass-roots members. The party captured 46 seats in the House of Commons in the 1997 election, its best result in 70 years, and it currently holds more local council seats than the Conservatives.

But Mr. Ashdown will be missed, particularly because much of the cooperation between Liberals and Labour was based on a personal relationship between Mr. Blair and Mr. Ashdown.

"Ashdown's political seniority gave him a quasi-equality with Blair that no successor will get near," the political columnist Hugo Young wrote in The Guardian.



A FALLEN HERO — A woman in Varna, Bulgaria, scrubbing a statue of Lenin, the Russian Bolshevik revolutionary, on Thursday, the 75th anniversary of his death. The statue was pulled down in 1992.

Russian Reporter's Treason Trial Opens

Agence France-Presse

VLADIVOSTOK — A Russian journalist went on trial before a military court in this eastern port city Thursday, charged with high treason for his reporting on radioactive pollution caused by the Russian Pacific Fleet, the Interfax press agency said.

The closed-door proceedings against Grigori Pasko, a Pacific Fleet captain who had become a military correspondent, drew protests from human rights groups, which denounced the trial as a cover-up of heinous ecological crimes.

No details of the first day of the hearing were divulged, news agencies reported, but lawyers for Mr. Pasko insisted that their client was a victim of twisted justice.

"There is no evidence that Pasko is guilty of the crime he is being charged with," one of his lawyers, Oleg Kodlyarov, was quoted by Interfax as saying. "The investigation was biased. The charges are based on assumptions by

military counterintelligence and the prosecutor's office of the Pacific Fleet."

Mr. Pasko, 34, was arrested Nov. 20, 1997, and accused by the Federal Security Service, the body that replaced the KGB, of "high treason in the form of espionage," without indicating what country it believed was benefiting from his alleged crime.

Mr. Pasko reported with the Japanese television channel NHK and the Tokyo daily Asahi Shimbun on the dumping of radioactive and chemical waste in the Sea of Japan.

Mr. Pasko has been held in solitary detention in a Vladivostok prison for 20 months.

In a recent letter he said he was suffering from headaches and swollen limbs and that he feared catching tuberculosis.

The naval tribunal in charge of the inquiry has refused to transfer Mr. Pasko to house arrest, and he was not allowed to see his wife, Galina, until he

had been in prison for a year.

The case is similar to an investigation of Alexander Nikitin, a former naval officer accused of divulging to a Norwegian environmental group state secrets concerning the dangers posed by Russian nuclear submarines. During Mr. Nikitin's trial in St. Petersburg last year, the judge ruled that the charges against the officer were vague and ordered a new investigation.

The international organization Journalists Without Borders urged the authorities Wednesday to free Mr. Pasko immediately. The group argued that his activities are protected by Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights on the right to freedom of expression.

The group also argued that information allegedly passed on by Mr. Pasko was mostly public knowledge.

Human rights observers meanwhile are demanding that the trial be opened to the public.

British Doctors Rebel Over Rationing of Viagra

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — State-employed doctors in Britain were advised by their professional association Thursday to defy the government by prescribing the anti-impotence drug Viagra for all patients in clinical need of it.

Health Secretary Frank Dobson issued new guidelines Thursday allowing doctors in the National Health Service to distribute free Viagra only to patients with specified medical conditions.

But the British Medical Association said doctors should ignore the official instructions and prescribe the drug to all patients suffering from impotence.

But later Thursday, John Chisholm, head of an association committee, said: "At the moment Viagra is a drug that is legally prescribable, and we

believe that GPs should be meeting their patients' clinical needs. Therefore if GPs feel that their patients are in need of Viagra, we believe they should go ahead and issue them with prescriptions on the NHS," he said, referring to general practitioners.

Mr. Chisholm said the advice to doctors applied to "interim guidance" for the six-week consultation period that the health secretary had ordered for his new guidelines.

Mr. Dobson defended the decision to ration the drug as necessary to save resources in the state-run health service, which is strapped for funds. "We have to find a sensible balance between treating men with a distressing condition and protecting the resources of the NHS to deal with other patients, for

example, with cancer, heart disease and mental health problems," he said.

The diamond-shaped blue pill, which helps seven out of 10 impotent men to have sex and is reported to work eight times out of 10, sells for around £5 (\$8) a tablet.

Under the government's new guidelines, the drug is to be available to sufferers from impotence because of radical pelvic surgery or a spinal cord injury and to those whose prostate had been removed. Diabetics, multiple sclerosis sufferers and people with single gene neurological diseases would also qualify.

Mr. Dobson said his guidelines should keep health service spending on impotence at the current level of £10 million to £12 million a year.

KOSOVO: Truce Monitor Defies Milosevic

Continued from Page 1

cancel the Belgrade trip. "It was decided at the moment it's not a good idea to leave."

Yugoslav officials assert that the slain ethnic Albanians were rebels who had been killed in battle and that their bodies were taken to one spot by other ethnic Albanians to create the appearance of a massacre.

The White House, meanwhile, warned that force might be necessary to restore stability in Kosovo following the latest report of a massacre of ethnic Albanians.

"It is important for the stability of the region that the international community insist on Serb compliance, through the use of force if necessary," said the chief White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart.

Washington has demanded that Mr. Milosevic reduce the Serbian security presence in Kosovo, cooperate with a UN war crimes tribunal and reverse his decision that Mr. Walker must leave the country.

In Washington, Mrs. Albright declared: "President Milosevic must meet his obligations by complying with UN resolutions, reducing the Serb security presence, cooperating with the War Crimes Tribunal and permitting the verification mission, including Ambassador Walker, to operate unhindered."

Mrs. Albright said the envoys were "making very clear that he cannot — that Milosevic can't choose who the head of this is going to be."

The diplomats were gambling that the threat of withdrawing the entire monitoring force might be enough to make Mr. Milosevic change his mind.

The monitors are in Kosovo to verify compliance with the Oct. 12 agreement that ended seven months of fighting between government forces and ethnic Albanian rebels seeking independence from Serbia.

But their presence is, in effect, an assurance to Mr. Milosevic that NATO will not go ahead with threatened air strikes to enforce the October agreement.

Recalling incidents during the Bosnian War, when UN peacekeepers were taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs, NATO has drawn up plans to evacuate monitors before any air strikes.

The alliance has stationed a French-led rapid reaction force in nearby Mace-

BRIEFLY

Memorial Design Unveiled in Berlin

BONN — Germany took the wraps off a compromise American design for a Holocaust memorial in Berlin on Thursday, hoping to end a bitter dispute over how to remember the millions of Jews who died in Nazi death camps during World War II.

But the twice-altered plan by the New York architect Peter Eisenman did little to silence the 10-year-long debate between supporters of a somber monument and advocates of a Holocaust museum similar to those in Washington and Jerusalem.

"My hope is that Parliament will opt for the project," Culture Minister Michael Naumann said, unveiling a model in the lobby of the Bundestag. "The chancellor supports it."

The final word on the matter does not lie with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, but with members of Parliament, who will vote on it. (Reuters)

Is Ocalan in Russia? Officials Are Looking

MOSCOW — The Foreign Ministry said Thursday that it had no information about reports that the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan was hiding at an airbase in Russia, but security services were investigating the claim.

The Russian response followed Turkish media reports Wednesday that Mr. Ocalan was hiding in Russia and was hoping for permission to stay.

Asked if Russia would be willing to provide sanctuary for Mr. Ocalan, the Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to comment.

Meanwhile, the speaker of the Turkish Parliament, Hikmet Cetin, said that Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia had reassured him that it would "not in any way be possible" for Mr. Ocalan to find refuge on Russian territory. (AP)

Riots Flare in Athens Over School Reforms

ATHENS — Demonstrators clashed with riot police and hurled firebombs, flares and rocks Thursday during another protest march by students demanding the repeal of education reforms.

Some store windows were shattered and vehicles were damaged, including a municipal van that went up in flames. Several injuries were reported in the third student demonstration in a week. Riot police fired tear gas and battled with groups of protesters at various points around central Athens, and at least 25 people were arrested, the police said.

An estimated 500 of the country's 3,140 state high schools remain occupied by students after two months of protests against a stricter high school exam system.

Students were joined in the protest Thursday by teachers, who held a three-hour work stoppage and plan a 24-hour strike Monday. Teachers are also demanding cancellation of the reforms, which are designed to bring Greece's educational system more in line with those of other EU nations. (AP)



A rebel fighter in Kosovo, which has been under assault by Serbian police units and the army, taking a stroll with his child as Belgrade and foreign powers discussed the crisis over the largely ethnic Albanian area.

ARMS: U.S. Plan for Defense System Will Kill Treaty, Experts Say

Continued from Page 1

missile defense. The initial Kremlin reaction Thursday was low-key, with advisers saying they were studying the letter while Mr. Yeltsin is in the hospital for a stomach ulcer.

But several specialists said the move would provoke a negative reaction in Russia. Dmitri Trenin, deputy director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Moscow Center, said there was a growing anti-American sentiment, and START-2 ratification could be the first casualty.

"The whole window of opportunity for START-2 that opened up last year has now closed," he said.

Alexei Podberiozkin, a Communist Party member of Parliament who recently decided to support START-2 ratification, said the U.S. decision to build a missile defense system could be the death knell of the strategic arms treaty.

"Certainly it will make ratification of START-2 impossible," he said. "But we don't know how far this decision goes beyond the ABM Treaty," he added. "It must be studied carefully."

Paul Podvig, a researcher at the Center for Arms Control, Energy and En-

vironmental Studies in Moscow, said draft legislation in the Duma to accompany the START-2 ratification already stipulated that the United States must stick by the ABM Treaty. "It will be very difficult to get START-2 ratified if the United States is serious about changing the ABM Treaty," he said.

"The reaction to this kind of proposal, from the Duma, politicians, and the military, will be very negative," he added. "When Cohen said that if Russia doesn't play along, we will withdraw — that, in these circumstances right now, is not the kind of statement that will be taken lightly here."

"I have an impression that the United States has given up on START-2," Mr. Podvig said. "They see that the chances to get it ratified by the Duma are very small" and "that Russia is going to destroy our missiles with or without START-2. They see that Russia is going to reduce anyway, so why worry that much?"

The Duma got as close to ratification as it could" before the Iraq bombing, he said. "Everything was more or less in place. I think that somebody in the State Department or the administration should have thought about that, about timing,

and they didn't. Which means they just don't care."

"Rogue Nation" Threat Cited

Dana Priest of the Washington Post reported earlier from Washington:

Defense Secretary William Cohen said the missile defense system was needed to respond to a growing missile threat from North Korea and other nations.

"We are affirming that there is a threat, and the threat is growing, and that it will pose a danger not only to our troops overseas but also to Americans here at home," Mr. Cohen said Wednesday.

Because a workable missile defense system must still overcome daunting technological obstacles, Pentagon officials said a system probably could not be deployed until 2005, two years later than originally predicted.

Mr. Cohen pointed out that the U.S. system would not be able to shoot down the thousands of warheads that Russia could launch. "The limited national missile defense capability we are developing is focused primarily on countering rogue nation threats and will not be capable of countering Russia's nuclear deterrent," he said.

4 Die as U.K. Jet Hits Civilian Plane

Agence France-Presse

EVERTON, England — Four people, including two Royal Air Force crewmen, were killed Thursday when an RAF Tornado fighter-bomber collided with a civilian light aircraft in midair, the police said.

Witnesses described how the low-flying two-man Tornado sliced through the Cessna single-engine plane, which was also carrying two people.

Both airplanes crashed to the ground and burst into flames. Wreckage was scattered over fields near the villages of Everton and Mathersey in central England, narrowly missing a school.

A witness, William Allen, said: "There was wreckage everywhere and there were some bodies, some of them looked quite young."

Another witness, Beryl Peck, saw the planes collide. "The jet then disappeared behind some woods in a fireball," she said. "Before there was a massive explosion."

An RAF spokesman said the jet had been based at nearby RAF Cottesmore.

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Engage With Russia

Not Just a Problem

Russia figured in Bill Clinton's State of the Union speech only as a headache — a nuclear threat, a potential source of nuclear materials and technology falling into "the wrong hands." Mr. Clinton's concern and his proposal to spend more to safeguard Russia's nuclear weapons are welcome. But they also show how far the U.S.-Russian relationship has slipped. Early in his presidency, Mr. Clinton saw Russia as a challenge and an opportunity. Now he describes it only as a problem to be managed. This is understandable but misguided.

Certainly Russia has not developed as President Clinton hoped in those early post-Soviet days. While the American economy has grown in each year of his presidency, Russia's has steadily declined. Its economy now accounts for little more than 1 percent of U.S. economic activity, compared with a U.S. share of more than one-fifth. With such an imbalance, the kind of equal partnership that Mr. Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin once spoke of is not conceivable. But it is wrong to assume that Russia's troubles are bound to last forever.

The Clinton administration finds it easy to justify engagement with Russia — its own disengagement with China, not so much because China is important today but because it may grow into an economic and military powerhouse. How much more important, then, to engage with a struggling democracy such as Russia that also, over the long term, may develop into a constructive and prosperous player on the world scene.

What does this mean in practice? Russia's most pressing international problem is its external debt. It cannot possibly meet its obligations this year, and creditor nations and banks are going to have to work out a rescheduling. The United States could take a leading role by urging that Soviet-era debt be written off. Without rewarding Russia's poor economic performance, this would underline America's hope and belief that post-Soviet, democratic Russia is a new nation in a new era.

The administration also should not act as though all is lost in Russia. Change has come so quickly that it is easy to forget the progress of just the past 10 years.

Political parties, a free press, environmental lobbies and other civic organizations, millions of Russians traveling abroad, all of this was unimaginable not long ago. Now, with some newfound freedoms under threat from Russia's economy reeling, support from the United States for grassroots democracy is all the more important. Student exchanges, business education, journalism training — these kinds of efforts matter now, and matter even more for the coming generation.

The Clinton administration faces many obstacles to a policy of engagement with Russia — its own disengagement with China, not so much because China is important today but because it may grow into an economic and military powerhouse. How much more important, then, to engage with a struggling democracy such as Russia that also, over the long term, may develop into a constructive and prosperous player on the world scene.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Reduce the Dangers

No investment in American national security has paid higher dividends than the \$2 billion that Washington has spent in the last eight years to help Russia and other former Soviet republics dismantle nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. President Bill Clinton was right, in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, to call for significantly increased spending on such programs.

Congress, including members who oppose other foreign aid to Russia, should approve this White House request in full.

There is no longer any threat of Russia deliberately attacking the United States. But Moscow's still formidable stocks of nuclear bombs, nuclear ingredients and biological and chemical warfare agents pose a different kind of danger.

Much of this material is inadequately secured, and the workers guarding it are paid poorly or not at all. That creates an unacceptably high risk

that some material could be sold to potential aggressors like Iraq, Libya, North Korea or Serbia.

Many Russian weapons scientists are unemployed or unpaid and vulnerable to foreign recruitment.

Some of the \$4.5 billion that the Clinton administration is requesting for the next five years would be used to speed the safe disposal of both plutonium and chemical and biological weapons stocks, and further improve security at storage sites.

Washington would add new defenses against smuggling by helping Russia to establish better border controls and export monitoring. There would also be an expansion of efforts to re-employ scientists in civilian work.

During the Cold War, the United States spent trillions of dollars to deter Russia from using its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. It would not take much more than \$10 billion to eliminate most of the risks from those weapons today.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Good Times, for Now

The current U.S. economic expansion will soon enter its ninth year, making it the longest peacetime expansion in American history. But it is unusual in more ways than length, as Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, emphasized in congressional testimony on Wednesday.

Mr. Greenspan pointed to the unprecedented rise in stock prices. That has made it far cheaper and easier for American industry to raise capital, and it has contributed to a sense of well-being in the country. It also has led to President Bill Clinton's proposal to have some Social Security money go into stocks, an idea that Mr. Greenspan opposed out of fear of political influence in investment decisions.

As he pointed out, government statistics show that Americans are saving far less than in 1992, when Mr. Clinton was running for president and complaining about poor economic performance, but are much richer, as household net worth has risen by about 50 percent. That has stimulated consumption, which remained strong even when economists were most alarmed about the threats from Asia's recession.

Mr. Greenspan insisted that, when the Fed cut interest rates last fall, "we were not attempting to prop up equity prices," but he knows that this was one result, and he appears to be bothered by it. He warned that prices had risen further than profit growth would seem to justify. He voiced concern about the impact a falling stock market could have on consumer behavior and on the

economy, and warned that protectionist trade measures could severely damage investor confidence.

Mr. Greenspan, along with most economists, expects the American economy to slow this year, but he conceded that there is as yet little evidence that is happening. Most sectors are booming. The country's huge trade deficit has so far had little impact because foreigners have been willing to finance it. In a time of international financial turmoil, American investments have seemed attractive to many, even with interest rates low.

Sectors of the economy are suffering, largely the parts most sensitive to international weakness. Food prices are down substantially, hurting farmers. Producers of industrial materials such as steel are suffering from the reduced demand abroad, and many other manufacturers have seen orders and profits decline. But together, notes Robert Barba, chief economist of Hoenig & Co., those sectors employ about 20 percent of the work force. The rest are doing well.

This economic recovery began slowly in 1991, and now is going very strongly. That is the reverse of the normal process, and has surprised economists. But that very lack of predictability should make politicians hesitate as they decide what to do with the budget surpluses that have resulted. Assuming that the good times will continue indefinitely may be tempting, but it would also be foolish.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Learning to Steer the Forces of Globalization

By Stuart Eizenstat

WASHINGTON — The unprecedented flow of private capital, ideas, technology, goods and services known as globalization has changed the world. Each day, well over a trillion dollars flows around the world, exceeding the value of trade by 60 times.

The struggle to steer the forces of globalization will be one of the defining foreign policy priorities of the century to come.

By any measure, globalization is a net benefit to the United States and the world. Worldwide, the opening of once sheltered states and untapped markets has benefited nations and peoples from Seoul to Santiago and from Budapest to Botswana. Despite the current global economic crisis, real incomes in developing countries are still 50 percent higher than they were 15 years ago.

In 20 years, the poverty rate in Asia has been cut in half and more than 350 million people have been lifted out of destitution and hopelessness.

But today's crisis poses real challenges to these gains. In Indonesia, real GDP last year was down about 15 percent, in Thailand more than 8 percent, and in South Korea 7 percent, from 1997 levels. What began as a

currency crisis in Thailand quickly became an economic and political crisis that spread to the rest of East Asia, then on to Russia and now Latin America.

This global economic crisis has exacerbated fears in developing countries and could fuel a backlash against globalization. The optimistic notion only two years ago that the world was adopting dramatic economic liberalization as a model for economic and political development is under challenge.

Nowhere does this provide a greater risk than among the middle classes of some developing countries. They have been the backbone for democratic movements and economic reforms from the Philippines and Taiwan to South Korea and much of Latin America. If their confidence in economic liberalization is irrevocably shaken, it could have very dangerous and destabilizing impacts on the global economy of the 21st century.

The future of that economy lies in developing nations. They will be the markets for many goods and services. They may be America's partners in

addressing global problems from non-proliferation to climate change.

We must prevent these nations from becoming marginalized. Otherwise it could lead to greater political instability and exacerbated inequality between the haves and have-nots of the world. By some measures, the ratio of income inequality between the world's richest 20 percent and the poorest 20 percent roughly doubled from 1960 to 1990.

In 1999, the difficult conditions in many developing economies will only heighten concerns about globalization. The world must not resort to protectionist measures in a fruitless attempt to stop globalization; but neither should we ignore its undeniable risks. The question is how to deal with this new and complex set of issues.

The United States must help. Restore faith in the global financial system. It is imperative to reforming the global financial architecture. As we develop these international reforms, it will be critical that we engage developing nations. They must feel an equity interest in the reforms.

Ensure that countries have social safety nets to help people weather the disruptions caused by globalization.

Improve capacity building, in both the social and the economic realms, among developing nations so that they can more broadly share the fruits of growth and maintain open and accountable political systems.

Work to improve transparency, good governance and anti-corruption efforts so that aid, investment, loans and other revenue are used productively.

Stay the course on economic reform and trade liberalization. A relatively free flow of goods and services remains the best way to promote future economic growth.

But first we must help countries hurt by the crisis to achieve stabilization as quickly as possible and implement the difficult structural reforms needed for economic recovery and growth. Only then can we restore confidence in the positive benefits of globalization.

The writer is U.S. undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs. This comment was adapted by the International Herald Tribune from a speech in Washington on Tuesday to a conference sponsored by the Democratic Leadership Council and the Progressive Policy Institute.

The Mood of Clinton's Union Is Practical and Upbeat

By Flora Lewis

NEW YORK — It is so "surreal" that some editors have ruled out use of that word as tiresomely banal. But nobody is restraining the use of "surreal," and that is just what it doesn't feel like. The sense of this American epoch is really more of an outlandish farce or melodrama, exciting but of no essential significance.

The president of the United States is charged with such grave duties that he must be removed from office. At the same time, that same president appears before both houses of Congress in solemn assembly to tell them of his plans for the country, which stretch as far as half a century ahead.

Of course, if Bill Clinton is convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice and expelled, it would be historic because that has not happened before in the United States. But it seems too far-fetched, considering the miserably pointless circumstances. What is more, the partisan arithmetic seems too impervious to argument — enough Republican votes (a majority) in the House to impeach

and in the Senate to try, but not enough (two-thirds) to convict.

Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address was glowingly upbeat, full of confidence and promise. It focused on the medium and long term, five to 50 years ahead, with no reference at all to the immediate attempt to cut him down. His lack of embarrassment, contrition or malice infuriated his Republican opponents all the more.

The two young congressmen chosen to respond on television for the majority party, Jennifer Dunn of Washington and Steve Largent of Oklahoma, had nothing to offer but their claims of personal virtue and dedication, all delivered in overly familiar political windbagery.

Flora Lewis, whose columns appear regularly on this page, is being honored in New York by the Overseas Press Club this Friday with its Lifetime Recognition Award.

When it comes to public issues, rather than his personal misbehavior, Mr. Clinton does not provide them with much of a target, while his easy, cheerful style, without a hint of discomfort, is mastery.

Still, one of the two mysteries about the whole Clinton scandal is why the hard-line right hates him so much. They do. They refer to him as Evil Incarnate. One analysis is that he has co-opted a lot of conservative issues — such as crime, middle-class problems with child care, poor education standards — and they feel he has stolen their birthright. But that doesn't explain enough.

In a way it is a repudiation of the left they abhor. There is also a rebound, a revenge, against those who epitomized the counterculture rebellion of the late 1960s and early 1970s, a kind of grim and satisfied conviction that so much defiance could only come to a bad end.

The polls confirm the fact that the public at large does not share the indignation at all. Why?

That is the second mystery.

The questions that pollsters usually ask don't help much. The answers tend to brush the surveys aside much more than to reveal the underlying thoughts of either the hard-liners or the general public. The drama in the atmosphere all seems artificial, generated by media and prosecutors, while the typical ordinary reaction is "Oh, leave him alone."

Surprisingly, Representative Dunn began her rebuttal to the president's speech by saying it was wrong to talk so much about crisis. "There isn't any crisis, Americans are sound." But that is the president's first point. "The state of our union is strong," he said.

So what is the fuss about? Probably most congressional Republicans are no more intense about it than their constituents, but the militant leadership has achieved a capacity for intimidation that keeps them from risking the charge of being "soft" or "defecting."

The situation has been compared to the period of Senator Joe McCarthy's fierce cam-

paign against the Communists he professed to smell everywhere. It was enough to silence, even Dwight Eisenhower.

But the McCarthy era, which finally blew up in ridicule, was about something, an ideological crusade. It is very hard to say what the Lewinsky scandal is about, except by sniggering. Still, it has taken on a momentum of its own that makes the next weeks hard to predict.

The longer term is easier. As Mr. Clinton said in his speech it has to be about Social Security, education and public debt, and nothing that is argued in his trial will make any real difference.

It was noticeable that he dwelt almost entirely on domestic social issues, with only a brief passing reference to foreign affairs and America's role in the world. He was defending himself, naturally, but he was also reflecting what is predominantly on the mind of Americans as the country enters the new century. Just getting on with life, nothing for the rest of the world to get upset about.

Flora Lewis

This President's Legacy? It All Depends on His Trial in the Senate

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — In 1992, Bill Clinton interrupted his presidential campaign for the execution of Ricky Ray Rector in Arkansas. Rector had murdered two men and then turned the gun on himself. He was left lobotomized, apparently with no memory of his crime and no comprehension of his fate. At his last meal, he put aside a piece of his pecan pie — for later.

I thought of Rector while watching Mr. Clinton deliver his State of the Union address. For later, he had a program for Social Security.

For later, he had more money for defense. For later, he would do this and that for education,

for the environment, for race relations, for the poor, for the working man, for the nonworking woman, for minorities of all kinds, for peace anywhere and everywhere and for the United Nations. All this for a later that may never come.

The speech was classic Clinton, much too long and rhetorically banal. If possible, it will shoot his ratings even higher since, among other things, it promised something for just about every group under the sun — the exception being Republicans after his scalp. For them, he showed once again that he is Indomitable Man, a model for

kids, no matter what his enemies say. He proves the virtue of just getting up in the morning and going to work.

In a sense, this speech was about legacy, a word we heard often after Mr. Clinton won reelection and which we are starting to hear all over again. What will his be? It just might be that he saved Social Security and gave his country eight years of spectacular prosperity.

It might be that he unified the Democratic Party, pushed it back toward the center and in the process so fragmented the Republican Party that its new speaker in the House of Rep-

resentatives could go on the old "What's My Line?" television show and stump any panel you could choose.

But Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address was really about the only legacy left to him: the future of the American presidency. If he can convert public opinion into political truth, if he can get the polls to dent the thick heads of his Republican enemies, if the speech reminds people that this man really has presided over good times, then maybe he will be able to slip the noose that Republican conservatives have tied for him.

This is his great irony. He came to the presidency too late for greatness. Earlier Tuesday night, I attended the inauguration of the Peter G. Peterson Center for International Studies at the Council of Foreign Relations. A clutch of secretaries of state spoke, from Madeleine Albright back to Henry Kissinger, and most compared today's challenges with former ones. The world is now a more chaotic place, but it is safer. A nuclear war between superpowers is no longer possible. We are at peace — except, of course, with ourselves.

A great president must have a great crisis — a civil war, a depression, wars abroad. Mr. Clinton has had none of these, not even a recession. He has been uncommonly lucky abroad, adroit at home. He had to convene thinkers to wonder what his

legacy should be. He lacked the necessary crisis and so, in a way, he manufactured one.

The end of the Cold War has enabled Congress to turn against the executive, conservatives against everyone else, traditionalists against modernity itself. The president has played catalyst. He is a shameless roué. At his State of the Union address, he lauded his wife, beaming adoration at her, and yet, as we now know, there could quickly be another moment, another woman, another target of beaming adoration.

This is who he is. He is indefensible, although talented, competent and successful. But he no longer matters. It is the office he occupies that concerns us now, not to mention the programs he advanced.

We are not here to defend William Clinton, the man, his lawyer, Charles Ruff, told the Senate earlier in the day. "You are free to criticize him, to find his personal conduct distasteful, but ask whether this is the moment when, for the first time in our history, the actions of a president have so put at risk the government the framers created that there is only one solution." The answer is "no."

No," say the American people. This is the crisis Mr. Clinton never thought he would have. Its outcome — nothing else — will determine his legacy. His (can it be?) greatness.

The Washington Post

Italy, Europe and the New NATO

By Massimo D'Alema

The writer is the prime minister of Italy.

ROME — The end of the Cold War has brought a clear turning point for NATO. First, the nature of risks and potential threats has changed radically. Second, and as a consequence, NATO has been undergoing a process of adjustment, adding to its traditional common defense dimension new collective security functions.

In this context, the role of Italy has shifted significantly. Italy is particularly exposed to the risks of instability and conflict from the very areas where NATO's functions have been consistently growing in scope and duration in the 1990s. In other words, in the "new NATO" Italy is, more than in the past, a frontline state with vital interests on the immediate periphery of the alliance's core area.

It is clear that the alliance's transition process is far from over yet, and a key step forward will have to be made with the adoption of a new strategic concept in the spring. In the shaping of next century's NATO, Italy's priorities are the following:

• Development of a strong European security and defense identity within NATO, which will make a constructive contribution to trans-Atlantic security. This will be a net gain, not a disruptive force. Indeed, it is a precondition for more equitable burden-sharing and ultimately for a more effective and cohesive alliance.

There will be need for a direct link between NATO and

the European Union, to be achieved through gradual integration of the Western European Union into the EU structure. It has been shown beyond reasonable doubt, especially in the former Yugoslavia, that without a significantly upgraded security and defense capability the EU will be unable to exercise a decisive political influence over the stabilization of adjacent regions.

A balanced solution to the question of providing international legitimacy to the alliance's new functions in the so-called non-Article 5 missions. This is a central requirement if NATO is to serve as one of the foundations of a more secure and just international order.

A practical mechanism needs to be devised to guarantee the broadest possible level of legitimacy, in the spirit of the United Nations, while maintaining the alliance's political and operational effectiveness. The principles of basic human rights, international law and multilateralism must be combined to make NATO a collective force of stability and security.

A geographically balanced "open door" policy. An adequate emphasis on Southeastern Europe is especially necessary at this stage, after the first round of enlargement is completed. Slovenia

and Romania are certainly qualified to be among the next invitees, not least for reasons of geographical contiguity and regional stabilization. Bulgaria is becoming equally worthy of consideration.

The enlargement process will be gradual and conducted step by step, but it is imperative that NATO explicitly present applicants with a clear prospect of further rounds of expansion, and assist them in preparing for accession.

NATO's enlargement and its new relations with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership countries are basic components of a new pan-European security architecture. The role of Russia obviously will remain of crucial importance.

Finally, NATO will need to look at practical ways to enhance the cooperation with our Mediterranean Dialogue partners, in order to contribute effectively to stability and security in the Mediterranean region as a whole.

Italy views a strong relationship with the United States and the vitality of NATO as key foreign policy assets. In an age of historical changes such as the introduction of the euro, a more equal Euro-American partnership can only strengthen this vital link.

This requires an enhanced European contribution, with the assumption of growing responsibilities. Italy has demonstrated that it is willing and able to take concrete steps in this direction.

International Herald Tribune

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Zola's Rescue

PARIS — The sale of the effects of M. Emile Zola to cover costs due to MM. Belhomme, Varinard, Couard, experts in handwriting, in connection with their libel suit against him, took place yesterday (Jan. 21). M. Fasquelle and other friends of the novelist gathered at the house in the rue de Bruxelles. The first article offered for sale was a mirror framed in oak. Someone bid 50fr.—75fr.—100fr., and then M. Fasquelle cut in with 2,500fr., and the sale was over. He was applauded and there were many shouts of "Vive Zola."

1949: A Klan Victory

ATLANTA, Ga. — After hours of debate in which the Ku-Klux Klan was held up as a "shining symbol of the Southern way of life," the Georgia House of Representatives killed a bill to unmask the organization. Fifty-one members did not vote. Rebel yells greeted Representative Julian Bennett when he told the legislators they would be listed with such Southern heroes as Robert E. Lee if they killed the measure. Mr. Bennett charged it would "set in motion forces that will ultimately destroy our way of life."

1924: Receiving Line

LONDON — A man who begged at his son's wedding was sentenced to six weeks hard labor in the Thames Police Court today. An inquiry officer said that the prisoner had been con-

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مركز الامم

OPINION/LETTERS

What Would Milosevic Give Up to Keep Power?

By Misha Glenny

LONDON — What are the motives of Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo? There is little doubt that he approved the police action in Racak last week, and certainly the decision to allow the village after the massacre for "cleanup" operations must have had his specific approval.

Diplomats are also confident that Mr. Milosevic realized that the events in Kosovo would provoke outrage in the West and calls for tough action. So why did he do it? There are two possible explanations.

The first assumes that the Yugoslav president has no ideology and is committed to nothing except staying in power. To this end he has eschewed any coherent strategy while developing into a master tactician.

The chief source of his political legitimacy now resides in his ability to manufacture ever-greater crises that rally nationalist opinion and allow him to pin the label "traitors" on his opponents.

A second possible explanation for Mr. Milosevic's behavior appears far-fetched yet enjoys wide currency among politicians and intellectuals, Serbian and Albanian alike. According to this theory, his objective is to allow Kosovo to become independent by forcing the West to intervene. He is an opportunist, not a nationalist, and if he can keep hold of power by letting go of Kosovo, he will do it.

The province is an economic burden and a constant source of instability. Ninety percent of its people are Albanians who have no wish to remain in Yugoslavia.

If this really is Mr. Milosevic's plan, though, he can expect fierce opposition from Serbian nationalists, who will give no ground on this issue, no matter how cleverly he employs his tactical skills.

But he has a record of losing wars and territory without paying the political price. The Serbs conceded total defeat in Croatia and partial defeat in Bosnia. Mr. Milosevic made the case to his fellow Serbs that these losses came about because the governments of Croatia and Bosnia received Western support. If the United States and Europe react to the latest events by authorizing NATO to intervene in Kosovo, his problem will be solved.

But this is a risky business. Air strikes against Serbian air defenses would be a recipe for further instability in the region.

If Serbia's conventional military capacity were eliminated, the Bosnian government and even the Croatian government might be tempted to take advantage of Serbian weakness by seizing territories currently controlled by Mr. Milosevic's forces.

In any case, air strikes would not put a stop to the killing in Kosovo and most probably would increase the possibility of the conflict spreading to Macedonia.

Thus, the only intervention that stands a chance of success is one that would send Western ground troops to Kosovo and establish a NATO protectorate there. This would in effect put NATO at war with Serbia, but it is unlikely that the Yugoslav Army would be able to engage NATO forces.

Instead, Mr. Milosevic could tell his nationalist supporters that he did everything in his power to save Kosovo but that when faced with the superior force of NATO the Serbs had no option but to concede the loss of territory.

Both theories are rooted in Mr. Milosevic's willingness to stir up crises that suggest the possibility that the Kosovo conflict will spill over into other regions. Serbia could not withstand a tough NATO response, but it remains the most potent military and political power in a chronically unstable region.

Mr. Milosevic has the power to withdraw Serbian support for the Dayton accord that holds together a fragile peace in Bosnia. He is also capable of provoking bloodshed in Montenegro between pro- and anti-Serbian Montenegrins. Kosovo itself has the potential to trigger fratricidal conflict in Albania and an enormous war in Macedonia.

The Yugoslav president is holding a knife to the throat of the southern Balkans. Some politicians in the West understand this. Whether they will devise a method of disarming him is another matter.

The writer, author of "The Fall of Yugoslavia," is completing a history of Balkan nationalism. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.



By VELLIN in The Yorker and Mail (Illustration, C.A. Snyder)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jefferson Precedent

Thomas Jefferson came under harsh media criticism when the editor of The Richmond Recorder, James Callender, published a shocking report on Sept. 1, 1802: "It is well-known that the man, whom it delighted the people to honor, keeps and for many years has kept, as his concubine, one of his slaves. Her name is Sally. His features are said to bear a striking resemblance to those of the president himself."

The editor of The Boston Globe begged Jefferson for "evidence of his innocence." But Jefferson maintained total silence.

Frustrated, the editor of the Lynchburg Gazette in Virginia, who said he waited two months for a denial of the Callender articles, sought out his own sources of information and said he found "nothing but proofs of their authenticity."

Though the hostile partisan press continued to lambaste Jefferson for his moral lapse, Congress, realizing Jefferson's great public popularity, stayed away from the controversy. The issue today is not about obstruction of justice, but obstruction of privacy by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel who was appointed to investigate a failed real estate deal but asked a question about Mr.

Clinton's private life. Congress in the 19th century understood this and never asked any question about Jefferson's relations with Sally Hemings.

MAHMOUD ELAHI
Ottawa

Italy's Kurdish Deal

The leader of the Kurdish Workers Party, Abdullah Ocalan, got away once again. Italy's prime minister, Massimo D'Alema, must be wondering what he got out of this deal.

He badly damaged Turkish-Italian relations, including what was a healthy commercial exchange, embarrassed Germany, split the European Union, irritated the United States and hurt NATO solidarity. It seems pretty much like a zero sum to me.

TUNCH M. KUZAY
Naperville, Illinois

Not One Euro for All

Franco Modigliani's statement that the "introduction of the euro is a crucial step in Europe's courageous march toward political union" (Opinion, Jan. 6) is a sentiment clearly understood and overwhelmingly rejected by the majority of people in Britain. We would just change the word "courageous" to "foolhardy, naïve and dangerous. Most people in

Britain want us to maintain economic, fiscal and political independence.

The tensions created by the euro will become obvious as it increasingly becomes an instrument of political, rather than economic, strategy.

Already the Germans, French and Italians appear to view the euro as a weapon to combat the dollar and the United States, macho economics that have little place in a global market.

PETER ATKINSON
Wallingford, England

The writer is chairman of the Sutton branch of the Democracy Movement.

John Somerhausen wonders (Letters, Jan. 20) how cartoonists are going to represent the citizens of "Euroland."

I suggest the Pied Piper blowing on an instrument that represents the sign for the euro.

PETER B. MARTIN
Valprie, France

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Shakespeare Never Died (Playwrights See to That)

By Martin F. Nolan

SAN FRANCISCO — When the lords, ladies, and groundlings of the Modern Language Association wandered the halls of the San Francisco Hilton last month, one thing they agreed upon was the status of William Shakespeare. He is doing well, considering that he has been, for 382 years, a dead, white male.

The Modern Language Association began to pursue politically incorrect corpses in the 1960s, but the posse was stymied when

Shakespeare, she said. "They don't have to be forced into it."

Conservatives, cursed with an itch to censor, are not to be trusted with Shakespeare. In the early 19th century, Thomas Bowdler, a forerunner of Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, produced an expurgated (in other words, bowdlerized) edition of the collective works, banishing bawdy humor to appease Victorian tastes.

Shakespeare survived. Age cannot wither nor custom stale his infinite variety.

Fads pass, even in the 20th century. Laurence Olivier's screen adaptations, which electrified audiences in the 1940s, seem like tenacious graves compared to Kenneth Branagh's Cagneyesque interpretations.

Sir Laurence once owned the celluloid copyright on "Henry V" and "Hamlet," but no more. In Mr. Branagh's version of the former, one can smell the horses sweating at Agincourt. In the latter, Elsinore is home to an all-star cast: Derek Jacobi, Julie Christie, Jack Lemmon, Charlton Heston, Robin Williams. Alas, poor Larry. I knew him, Horatio. (Zeffirelli's Hamlet failed not because of the cast but solely because Mel Gibson looked lost in the title role. Danny Glover, call thy precinct.)

Continuity flourishes in "Shakespeare in Love." Ben Affleck is as mordant a Mercutio as John Barrymore was in the 1936 MGM production.

Theatrical families are ahly represented by Gwyneth Paltrow, daughter of Blythe Danner, and Joseph Fiennes, brother of Ralph. (Is there a Zeppo or Gummo around the house?)

The next Shakespearean in Hollywood will be Calista Flockhart, who on television portrays a Boston lawyer, Ally McBeal. She presumably will not be mislabeled as Helena in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in May. But she will prosper, as do all Shakespeareans.

"Shakespeare in Love" is an affirmation of Falstaff in "Henry IV, Part 1," who said, "Play out the play." For 400 years, millions have, because he is a guide to what he called "life's uncertain voyage." Rosecrantz and Guildenstern may be dead, but Shakespeare is not.

The Boston Globe

MEANWHILE

Shakespeare's reputation experienced one of its many revivals.

On Broadway, Franco Zeffirelli made "Romeo and Juliet" into a dazzling spectacle of hot-stuff love. In 1969, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" opened at the National Theater in London when the playwright, Tom Stoppard, was 29.

With Marc Norman, Tom Stoppard is the co-screenwriter of "Shakespeare in Love," adorning the box-office top 10 roster despite the absence of special effects.

The movie demonstrates that Shakespeare's heart and art were based in showbiz, with all its anxieties and backstage melodrama. "Shakespeare in Love" is "A Chorus Line" of the 1590s, a "42nd Street" in doublet and pantaloons.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Stoppard has a fondness for the English language that simmers with the zeal of a convert. Shakespeare is the Rome and Canterbury of his word-based religion. His experience demonstrates the timelessness of the Elizabethan era's hottest young playwright.

After every campus revolution, academe opens the gates to welcome forgotten or downtrodden cultures. But scholars still swarm to Shakespeare.

In 1997, when Georgetown University announced that Shakespeare would not be mandatory for English majors, conservatives feared that Will was an endangered species, but Phyllis Franklin, executive director of the Modern Language Association, argued that the canon was safe.

"Shakespeare is so well established as a major writer in our society that serious students of literature choose to study

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GO: 0,565 FOD: 0,5176

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MAC: 0,06 SCSP: 1,34

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AU 21/01/99
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SCSP: 30,03 SCSP: 28,04

HOLLANDE (zone I) NLG - TVA 17,5%
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SCSP: 1,284 SCSP: 1,213

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Leisure

A Bit of Europe in Argentina The Multilingual Architecture of Buenos Aires

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — If the walls of Buenos Aires could speak, they would speak in French, Italian, German, Hungarian and English. A clock tower that is a knockoff of Big Ben tells commuters how late they are for work as they pick up their taxis at the Retiro train station, the largest Edwardian terminal in the world. Galerías Pacifico, the fashionable mall on the Calle Florida, is modeled after the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan. Entire neighborhoods, like La Boca and San Telmo, feel like blue-collar Italy, while Palermo Chico and swishes of Recoleta feel like upscale France.

The Circulo Militar military club on Plaza San Martin mixes the trademarks of the chateau at Chantilly, the Luxembourg Palace in Paris and a pavilion of the Louvre. The Immaculate Conception church in the northern barrio of Belgrano is a copy of the Pantheon in Rome. The Teatro Colon, the epicenter of opera and ballet for all of Latin America since its inauguration in 1908, mixes the architectural styles and acoustical devices of La Scala with those of the grand opera houses of Vienna and Paris.

Unlike the ancient Indian ruins and colonial baroque churches of Mexico City or Lima, architecture here may seem hopelessly derivative. Argentina was a cultural and economic backwater until the 19th century. But you would have to travel to London, Paris, Milan, Rome, Vienna and Budapest to see all the rich derivations of architecture that you can see in Buenos Aires alone.

The mix of styles reflects the broad impact of waves of European immigration in the 19th century (which included many distinguished architects and artists) and the cattle and foreign-investment bonanza of the early 20th century. It financed the building of scores of lavish mansions and palaces as well as giant government offices, shopping arcades, railroad stations and banks in the European taste.

The mixing of diverse European styles in the same block, even in the same building, is as Argentine as the tango. The city's signature dance form mixes African and Latin rhythms with the tangy lyrics of *lunfardo*, a local slang mixing Spanish and Italian.

There are no neighborhood architectural tours in English, and all the architectural guides to the city are in Spanish. A mere inconvenience: here are three walks you can take at an easy pace over two days.

One place to begin seeing the great buildings of Buenos Aires is along the Avenida de Mayo. The great thoroughfare is frequently compared to the Champs-Élysées for its lasting vitality and to Budapest's Andrássy Avenue for its architectural eclecticism.

On one end is the grand Congress building, inspired by the Reichstag in Berlin, with an imposing green dome shooting into the sky like the cupolas of

Turin. On the other end, crossing Avenida 9 de Julio, is the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace where Eva Peron stole many Argentine hearts from a balcony.

The palace is graced by French mansard roofs, a grand Italian baroque central arch and galleries of columns and arches straight out of the Italian Renaissance. And, in between, there is the Café Tortoni, where the poets and literati sip coffee under a stained-glass skylight inspired by the one in Maxim's in Paris.

Stop at the antique bookshops, cafés and ice cream parlors, and late at night, the lively Avila flamenco club. Just above the Avila, it is worth taking a look inside the hizarre Barolo office building. The soaring skyscraper was designed in the early 1920s by an Italian architect, Mario Palanú, whose imagination inspired undulating balconies and sculptures, multiple domes within domes, and wall inscriptions from Dante's "Divine Comedy."

For the second tour, stroll along the Avenida Alvear from the Plaza Francia to Plazuela Carlos Pellegrini. There are nearly a dozen blocks of French architectural genius on the Alvear. Architectural historians bemoan the fact that so many of the turn-of-the-century mansions built by the great cattle families — grand examples of late Victorian, Beaux-Arts and Italian Renaissance — were destroyed during the city's several urban renewals since the 1930s. Most of the lost mansions were replaced by neoclassical apartment houses that are French in feeling.

PAYING HOMAGE

Among the mansions left standing, the most impressive are the Vatican Embassy on the corner of Montevideo Street, and the eerie, ivy-draped Residencia Duhaú at 1671 Avenida Alvear. The Vatican Embassy has a marvelous mansard roof, as does the Brazilian ambassador's residence in the Plazuela Carlos Pellegrini.

The latter is a nice copy of the Jacquemart-Andre Museum on Boulevard Haussmann in Paris, with a sprinkling of accents added from the chateau at Fontainebleau. It was built in the 1920s by the Peredas, one of several Argentine cattle families who visited Europe and made copies of the buildings they liked most when they returned. "Rich as an Argentine" was a popular phrase in Europe in the 1920s.

Regrettably, the Brazilian ambassador's residence is only open to the public for tours on rare occasions, as is the neighboring French Embassy, one of the more complex Beaux-Arts buildings in the city.

Now to the Plaza San Martin, the heart of a third walking tour. It is the city's most beautiful plaza, especially in early November when the brilliant purple jacaranda trees are in bloom. The jacarandas were transplanted from the tropical north and are an integral part of the landscaping by Charles Thays, a French architect who also worked on Parisian parks at the turn of the century.

A walk around the Circulo Militar, the Louvre spin-off, is a good place to start. This wonder of opulence was once owned by Jose Paz, publisher of La Prensa, who built the grandest palace he could to entertain once he became president. Paz never won the presidency, but he did give one very special party in his mansion during which he introduced the tango to high society here, in the 1920s — shortly after it won acceptance in Paris.

Unfortunately, the only part of the old Paz mansion open to the public is a small military museum.

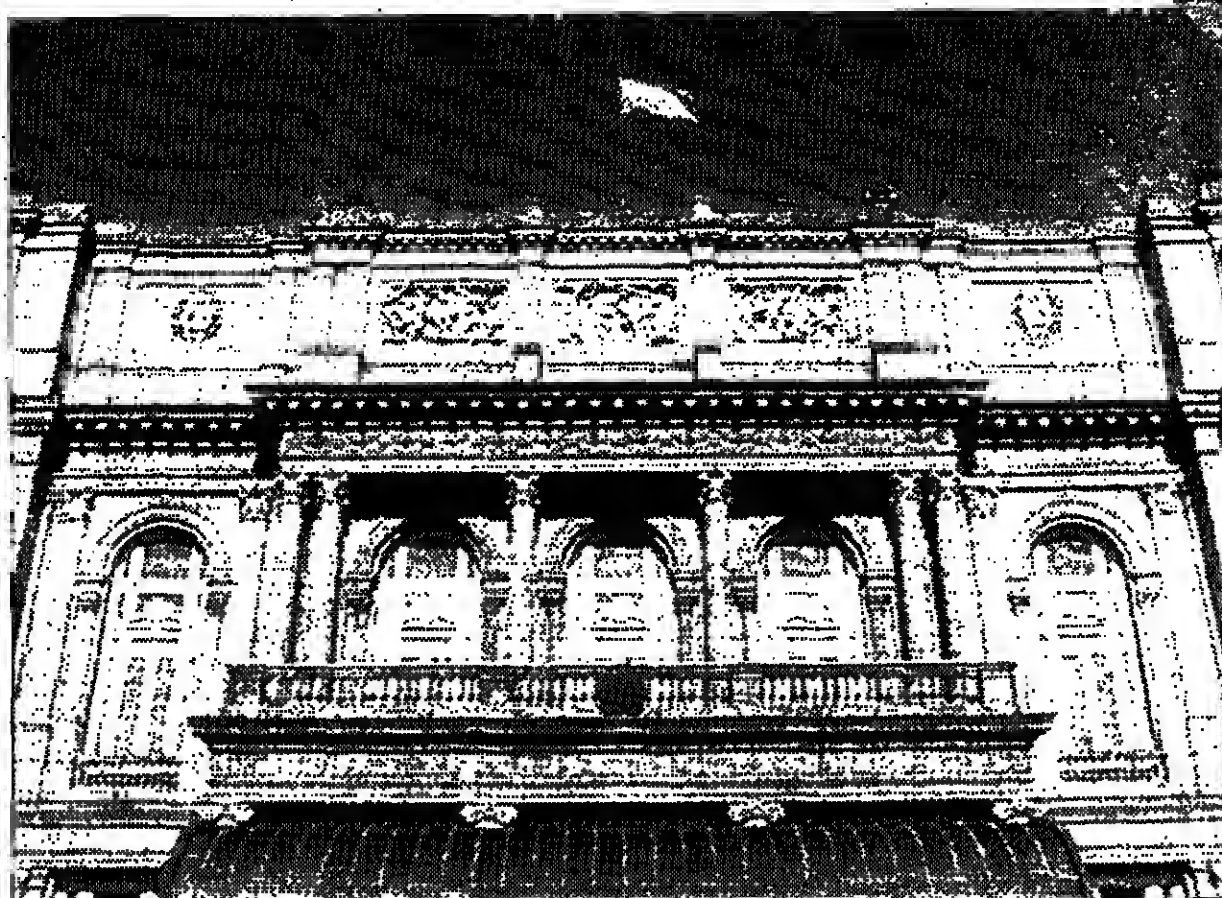
A GALLOPING MIX On the other side of the plaza is the mansion built by the Anchorenas (a branch of the same family that built what is today the Vatican Embassy), now the ceremonial center of the Foreign Ministry. Designed by Alejandro Christophersen — the Argentine architect who was born in Spain to Norwegian parents in 1866 and trained in Brussels and Paris — the mansion takes up a block and is a galloping mix of French classicism and Art Nouveau. It is closed to the public, but a peek through the gate reveals the cobblestoned *cour d'honneur* with its understated grillwork and columns designed to reflect the Louis XIV and XV periods. Around the block, on Calle Basavilbaso, an enchanting little black iron and glass pavilion juts out of the Anchorena mansion with a terrace on top.

Mercedes Castellanos de Anchorena wanted her palace to have a view of the Rio de la Plata and the austere neoromantic Sanissimo Sacramento church across the plaza that she had simultaneously built with an imposing marble altar lavishly decorated with bronze, mosaic and onyx. The glorious view lasted about 20 years.

In the early 1930s, an aspiring oligarch named Corina Kavanagh fell in love with New York's Art Deco skyscrapers. When she bankrolled construction of an Art Deco behemoth at 1065 Calle Florida, it spoiled the Anchorenas' view, starting a feud that has been called "the war of the socialites."

No trip is complete without a visit to the Teatro Colon. Like seeing a tango show, attending the opera at the Colon is a rich window on Argentine glamour and style. No matter the quality of the music, a big part of the experience of attending a performance at the Colon is partaking in the luxury and history of the building. It is a monumental mix of Italian, Viennese and French styles that is massive even by the dimensions of the Avenida 9 de Julio, one of the widest avenues in the world, on which it stands. The exterior displays layers of arches, moldings, sculptures, balconies and columns that some critics have characterized as more severe than beautiful. But it is the interior that really shines — even if most of the marbled walls are really only painted stucco.

For those who cannot attend an opera, there is a one-hour tour of the theater given in English and several other languages. I have taken the tour twice, and my only complaint is that there was not



The Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires borrows from La Scala and the grand opera houses of Vienna and Paris.

a mention of the sordid crime that changed the architectural destiny of the Colon. But the guides are courteous and knowledgeable, pointing out details from the Venetian mosaics on the floors and the beautiful mix of white Italian marble and pink Portuguese marble on the stairways to the boxes and orchestra seats still covered in their original burgundy velvet and gold brocade.

Designed by the Italian Francisco Tamburini just before his death, the auditorium has virtually perfect acoustics. The crystal chandelier has 700 bulbs, and there is a thin circular corridor at the top of the marbled dome ceiling that allows 15 musicians and singers to perform above the heads of the audience.

The guides like to quote Luciano Pavlotti, who once said that the theater had

only one defect: "It is so perfect you can easily hear every mistake."

DOWN BELOW DECKS But the best part of the tour is the several floors below ground, where you get a rare chance to see world-class ballet dancers practice and several historic opera costumes on display. The heaviest of them is a gown from Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" — inlaid with imitation jewels, it weighs 50 pounds. And there is a dress worn by the soprano Claudia Muzio in a 1933 performance of "Tosca."

And the theater's tragedy and scandal are operatic in scale. Tamburini did not live long enough to hear a formal concert in his masterpiece. And before his protégé, a fellow Italian named Victor Meano, could complete Tamburini's

work, he was murdered — shot by a man he found uninvited in his house one night in 1904. It was the former butler who did it; fired a few months before, he was having an affair with Meano's wife.

The third architect to lead the project, a Belgian named Julio Dormal, was no fan of Meano's and scotched most of the remaining designs for the interior, including Tamburini's and Meano's desire for a corridor of stores in the lobby. Dormal junked that in favor of a grand entrance, and he looked to Versailles for the fabulously ornate, mirrored hall on the second floor.

Perfect for strolls at intermission and for Friday afternoon recitals, it is considered one of the great rooms in Argentina. It never would have existed had Meano's butler been more discreet.

In Dodge City, Truth and Fiction



Allen Bailey behind the bar of the Long Branch Saloon, which tries to bring historical verisimilitude to Dodge.

By Shirley Christian
New York Times Service

DODGE CITY, Kansas — I hadn't gone to Dodge City to be a tourist and see the sights and artifacts of the mythical Old West town, but I was struck from the time I arrived by the way the past — both real and imagined — was all around and slipped into the most routine of conversations. One man said that when he told friends in another part of the country that he was moving to Dodge City, they seemed surprised to learn there really was such a place. Folks at the Chamber of Commerce wondered if I knew that the handsome brick building in which we talked was atop the original Boot Hill, where at least 26 people were "planted" after meeting their final fate in less than pleasant circumstances.

So, yes, I can confirm that there really is a Dodge City, a place on the high plains of southwestern Kansas that proudly uses a longhorn steer as its town symbol and whose main drag, in its historic section, is still called Front Street. There never was a Marshal Dillon, but there was a Sheriff Bat Masterson and a Deputy Marshal Wyatt Earp. There never was a Miss Kitty, but the real life of the beautiful and talented Miss Dora Hand was better than fiction, right up until she was fatally shot in the mayor's bed.

The backdrop for their lives is recreated in a museum village that occupies the remainder of the old Boot Hill site — a row of wooden buildings modeled on the businesses that existed on Front Street before they burned down in a series of fires in 1885, almost coinciding with the end of the cattle drive days. The actual Front Street was, and remains, about three blocks to the east, where today's downtown stores continue to do business. In summer, the museum village is filled with tourists watching actors re-enact gunfights and dancers do the can-can at the Long Branch Saloon.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day you can also ride the Dodge City

Trolley to other historic sites, including a swing east of town to old Fort Dodge, established in 1865 to protect a long section of the Santa Fe Trail, but shut down in 1882. About a mile east on Highway 400, there's a 32-foot cross commemorating the site where Coronado is believed to have crossed the Arkansas River in his quest for Quivira in 1541. But on a frigid, blustery day last January I was probably the only potential sightseer in town, and I shivered in the car and dreamed of being enveloped in one of the buffalo robes that used to be a staple of Dodge City life.

That's why I was delighted to find the chief reality check on Dodge City inside the warm rooms of the Kansas Heritage Center, dedicated to the history of the Old West in Kansas and nearby states. Noel Ary, the center director and a former biology teacher, spends his days sorting out fact from fancy in a history "retold so many times that you often don't know what's real and what isn't."

"Most people are familiar with Dodge City through 'Gunsmoke,' though it wasn't quite like that," he said. "Enough names were dropped and places mentioned in the television series to give it credibility. We know Doc Holliday was here, at least once. He was a dentist, and we found an ad in The Dodge City Times in 1878 saying he was seeing patients in his room at the Dodge House."

INTO THE ARCHIVES The Kansas Heritage Center was founded with a federal education grant during the administration of President Lyndon Johnson. The grant was used to buy many of the center's 7,000 books on Western history. The center also has the military correspondence from Fort Dodge and some maps and other documents gathered from Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Nebraska. More important, however, the center is the repository, on microfilm, of nearly all issues of the 20-odd newspapers published in Dodge City since 1876. The newspapers are the most reliable source of information on local history, because the creators of "Gunsmoke," it seems, were not the first to exaggerate a bit. Ary

said many of the books are also more fiction than fact.

Among the travelers who find their way to the center, part of the local school administration building, are history buffs painstakingly looking for the hardened ruts of wagon trails along the Santa Fe Trail. They can find a few. Ary will tell them, particularly at a site nine miles (14.5 kilometers) west of town on the north side of Highway 50, but the fact is that the Santa Fe Railroad laid many of its rails directly into the old trail bed, and the railroad still runs right through town, along Wyatt Earp Boulevard.

THE center also sometimes serves genealogists who are trying to run down ancestral black sheep who took off for the West to escape debts, or worse.

Dora Hand may have been one of those who came to Dodge to escape the past. She arrived in the summer of 1878, and her singing so captivated the town that she was, according to The Dodge City Times and The Ford County Globe, "engaged as a vocalist in the Varieties and Cornique shows." People guessed that she was a European-trained opera singer who had fled great sadness somewhere back East. The newspaper described her as "a prepossessing woman" whose "artful winning ways brought many admirers within her smiles and blandishments."

But, alas, she fell ill that very October, and Mayor James (Doc) Kelley invited her and another ailing lady to recuperate in his home, while he occupied himself elsewhere. As Dora lay abed, someone out to get the mayor fired two shots into the house and killed her — as the newspaper said — "in full bloom of gayety and womanhood."

Some of the West's legendary lawmen — Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Bill Tilghman and Charles Bassett — formed a posse and rode out after the man said to be her killer, the son of a founder of the King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas. They captured their man and brought him back to Dodge, where he was tried. But because of insufficient evidence was found out guilty.

Hot-Spring Bliss in Japan

By Miki Tanikawa

YONEZAWA, Japan — For many Westerners, the idea of bathing in a *roten-buro*, or outdoor bath, may sound exotic enough. But some open-air baths in the Japanese countryside take the concept a lot further and make the experience a genuine trip back to nature.

Working on this theme, it took little imagination for resort planners to construct roten-buro right next to a rapid mountain river, a cliff, a waterfall or an ocean, in the middle of woods or in other out-of-the-way places where tourists might find themselves among wild animals, like monkeys.

The Japanese are particularly imaginative when it comes to creating environments for hot-spring bathing, since they traditionally conceive bathing as an enjoyment that can be creatively combined with other recreational activities: viewing the scenery, playing *shogi* (Japanese chess), drinking sake and so on.

Among the many *onsen*, or hot springs, with a close view of nature, Oodaira Onsen in Yonezawa, 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Tokyo, offers surroundings almost unmarked by modern life, while fairly easy access from Tokyo. The trip involves a two-hour bullet train ride from Tokyo and an hour's drive in a van run by the guest house from Yonezawa station, where travelers get off.

BUMPY BUT SCENIC

Thirty minutes into the ride, the van leaves the paved road, and another 20 minutes of bumpy riding on steep mountainsides brings travelers into an area free of man-made infrastructure. The van negotiates the way with many thrills, on a narrow, winding road with no possibility of U-turn. The last 15 minutes of the trip are by foot, mostly down a steep incline that gives visitors a fine vista of the gorge, with the



autumnal colors of the leaves, lighted by the afternoon sun, are said to give the illusion that the fall is on fire.

For dining, local delicacies include the *sashimi* of *yamame*, a kind of trout that lives only in pure waters, such as the section of the river the inn sits on. Another specialty is the Yonezawa beef, locally farmed, which has been likened to the well-known Kobe beef.

The autumn leaves are at their most colorful here toward mid- to late October when the Japanese version of beech, oak and rowan trees among others, turn colors ranging from bright yellow to blazing red.

At Kanetsuri Onsen in Toyama prefecture, 250 kilometers northwest of Tokyo, the riverside hot spring occurs naturally. Several bathing pools dot the river and, if a shy bather finds no empty bath, he might try digging one for himself. Take a shovel and scoop out the stony ground anywhere, and hot water oozes out almost instantly.

A spectacular natural hot spring is in Kawarage, in the northern Honshu prefecture of Akita. The water cascades down a rocky cliff, while bathers soak in the basin or stand underneath the naturally occurring hot shower that roars down the steep hill. Chilly weather and extensive rain can ruin the publicly owned waterfall-bath, and the best season to visit is from July to September.

• Oodaira Onsen, tel: 0238-38-3360. About \$80 a night, including two meals.

• Kanetsuri Onsen Ryokan, tel: 0765-62-1103. About \$90 a night, including two meals.

• Kawarage Onsen. No guest house owns this hot spring. The tourism division in the city hall of Yuzawa city, 0183-73-2111, provides information on nearby guest houses.

Although foreign guests are welcome, no English is spoken at any of these springs.

Miki Tanikawa is a journalist based in Tokyo.

THE CAR COLUMN

Volvo Serves Up Style With Safety

By Gavin Green

VOLVO likes to call itself "the world's smallest car company," although judging by all the rumors of mergers and takeovers, that may be about to change. It also likes to think of itself as the manufacturer of the world's safest cars.

During a recent visit to Volvo's headquarters in Gothenburg, I discussed safety with the company's design boss, Peter Horbury, an Englishman brought in to make Volvos look sexy. The S80, its new big car, which Horbury styled, had just been launched. So had the new Mercedes S-class, which the German company had also been promoting hard on its safety. It is probably true to say that the S80 and the S-class are the two safest cars in the world, at least in terms of cushioning their occupants from injury. They even have airbags in their roofs.

Given a choice, I asked, which seat would you rather be sitting in—the Volvo's or the Mercedes's—in a head-on accident with a big truck? Horbury replied: "I'd rather be sitting in the truck." An Englishman bringing a sense of humor to Volvo! A man given the task of making Volvos sexy! And he has succeeded.

Volvos were once anti-style design objects, all straight lines and right angles and tank-like heaviness. They were bought by people who didn't really like cars and who ventured forth onto the road with

the same sort of foreboding that early mankind must have felt every time he stepped out of the cave.

But all that tank-like utilitarian talk started to pale when everyone else started to take safety seriously too. Volvo had to reinvent itself, while not losing its renowned primacy in health care. Enter Horbury. Exit the Volvo tank.

The S80 is typical of the new Volvo "style language." Rounded has replaced angular. The hood and trunk lids sit proud, the inward-curving upper edges form distinctive shoulders. The taillights are dark-bordered and look vaguely like jet afterburners.

The novelty extends to the mechanical specifications, too. There is no other new car today with a six-cylinder, transversely mounted engine driving the front wheels. The seats on the test car were beautifully upholstered in soft suede and, what's more, instead of the unyielding park-bench-style cushions that carmakers have been foisting upon our backsides for years, the Volvo's seats are soft and squishy, rather like an old-fashioned sofa.

AT HOME IN THE CABIN

The dashboard too is handsome and, like all good designs, simple. The cabin abounds in fine details, including center-pillar air vents for the rear passengers. Push a steering wheel button and a screen slowly rises from the top of the dash, for the optional satellite navigation. Unlike old-style Volvos, which



had utilitarian and uninviting cabins, the S80 has a cockpit that positively encourages you to make yourself at home. You half expect a butler to appear, silver salver in hand. The rear compartment is especially large, and the trunk is huge.

So far, so good. If only the S80 was more invigorating to drive! It grips O.K., goes O.K., stops O.K. and cruises the freeways just fine. But there is just no enjoyment to be had from driving it. The controls all have different weightings, most notably the brake (light) and accelerator pedal (heavy), which doesn't do much for driving flow. The steering wheel doesn't feel connected to anything in front of the wheels, and the ride isn't all that clever either, getting quite agitated on broken city roads. A BMW, an Audi, or

even a Mercedes, are all much more involving to drive.

So Volvo has now got the style to go with the safety. All it needs is driving flair, and the German manufacturers who still dominate the prestige sector will really have something to worry about. A new owner (or partner) may just be able to teach it that.

The Volvo S80. About \$45,000. Six-cylinder engine, 2922cc, 204 bhp at 6,000 rpm. Turbo model also available. Five-speed manual, or automatic, transmission. Front-wheel drive. Top speed: 233 kph (145 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 8.3 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 9.8 liters per 100km.

Next: Mercedes M-class.

Gavin Green is editor in chief of Car magazine.

IN DREAMS

Directed by Neil Jordan, U.S.

Neil Jordan's surrealistic thriller, which stars Annette Bening in an exhausting, breakout performance, follows its genre requirements with such insulting woodenness, you know something else is going on. How could the maker of "Interview With the Vampire," "The Crying Game" and "Mona Lisa" display such robotic adherence to form without meaning to? There is method to the madness, and quite possibly, madness behind that. The scenario is a throwaway structure—a child lost, a mother whose psychic abilities are used to track the killer, the grumpy detective, the friendly psychiatrist, blah, blah, blah. But poke through the cavernous ribs of this formula and greater things are revealed.

Claire Cooper (Bening) has an idyllic New England life. She's married to a devoted husband (Aidan Quinn), who flies 747s. She has a lovely daughter (Katie Sagona) who is excited about her coming role in the school play. But Claire has been experiencing dreams and visions that connect her to traumatic events of the past and, tragically, the future. When she tries to convey these visionary warnings, she's treated with insensitivity by her husband and incredulity by the local detective (Paul Guilfoyle).

Then, the unspeakable happens, the worst that can happen to a parent. The Coopers are devastated. Claire, with the help of the aforementioned sensitive psychiatrist (Stephen Rea), finds herself linked even closer to the mysterious being that has caused her so much pain. Jordan and his co-screenwriter, Bruce Robinson, have created an emotionally harrowing experience that seems equal parts artistic subversion, savage genius and sheer nastiness. Movies of the last 20 years (especially thrillers) have become so slickly routine, they have molded our sensibilities into a conventional, almost crabbly set of expectations. A shake-up like this can only be good for the system. If you're interested in the cinematic equivalent of white-water rafting, I say take the plunge. (Desson Howe, WP)

L'ENNUI

Directed by Cedric Kahn, France.

"L'Ennui" is inspired by rather than adapted from the 1960 novel by Alberto Moravia. The movie drones on like a futile dream, connected to no specific time, yet it is French in the fixation on ennui as a kind of elegant mental predicament. The characters—Martin, a brooding philosophy professor (Charles Berling) and placid 17-year-old Cecilia (Sophie Guillemin), who is built like a Reubens wonder woman—seem to float outside their bodies, even as they toil away at incessant coupling. Martin dwells inside his obsession of possessing Cecilia; she lives someplace else, between animal adolescence and adult indifference. So we are watching desire and passion played out by people who are quite absent, which dashes eroticism from the scene. Martin becomes bored



Annette Bening in Neil Jordan's surrealistic thriller, "In Dreams."

personified, annoying his preciously modern former wife (Arielle Dombasle), gnawing away at Cecilia's marvelous calm. The script, written by the director, Cedric Kahn and Laurence Ferreira Barbosa, treats this drama of a man's headlong fall into obscurity—the nightmare plight for a philosopher—as a comedy, as if anguish had no real place in our world. The thesis becomes an ode to lost souls out of sync with each other and the times. Berling plays his part all nerve endings; he is a fearless, athletic actor who is relentlessly on, like a dog yapping in the dark. The pneumatic Guillemin has natural-born killer instincts, and the rich dimension of her remoteness makes her a temptress and actress worth watching. (Joan Dupont, HT)

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Directed by Brenda Chapman, Steve Hickner and Simon Wells, U.S.

If nothing else, the new animated feature from Dreamworks SKG is a wonderful essay on the meaning of freedom and the courage it takes to wrestle it from despot. In that sense, it feels more political and cultural than religious. The movie's proudest accomplishment is that it revises our version of Moses toward something more, immediate and believable, more humanly knowable. This Moses voiced by the less than Imperial Val Kilmer, doesn't seem to be posing for Mount Rushmore and you could never sick down his cheekbones. Wiry and Semitic, he's a man beset with doubts, who feels himself completely unworthy. The second virtue of "The Prince of Egypt" is a superb performance: Ralph Fiennes as Ramses, the noblood brother of Moses's upbringing, inheritor of the throne. In Fiennes's reading we hear the tragedy of a king born out of time, shackled to a set of beliefs that are crumbling daily, still in tragic love with a brother who has outgrown him. In the fight of his life, he's overmatched and he doesn't even know it. Raise a man in monstrous buildings, and he becomes a

monster. So it is with Pharaoh. By contrast, Moses becomes more human: humbled, doubting, pathetic and, given his persistence in the face of those doubts, truly heroic. That's what "The Prince of Egypt" finally is: a hero's biography. (Stephen Hunter, WP)

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Directed by John Madden, U.K.

When William Shakespeare experienced writer's block (along with feelings of sexual inadequacy), he would pay a visit to the Elizabethan equivalent of a shrink for a quick session of psychoanalysis. So John Madden's "Shakespeare in Love" would have you believe—and by the end of this manic and enchanting fantasia, you will believe it. Set in the bustling London of 1593, the movie could be called "The Making of 'Romeo and Juliet,'" but when the dizzy story begins, the working title of the playwright's rudimentary script is "Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter." The plot, not to mention the unwieldy title, needs work, as Will (Joseph Fiennes) only too well knows. Enter Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow), a pretty young noblewoman who has been bitten by the theater bug, an unfortunate malady in an age when women were not allowed on stage and female roles were all played by young men. With a boy's wig and fake mustache, she calls herself Thomas Kent, auditioning for—and getting—the role of Romeo in the as-yet-unfinished play. Will, meanwhile, falls in love with Viola when he follows "Kent" home only to discover a lady in residence. Witty co-written by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, "Shakespeare" is filled with unashamed anachronisms. Purists may be initially put off by such goofiness, but Paltrow and Fiennes are so good, as is the script, that seduction is inevitable. In the large and expert supporting cast, Judi Dench shines as a stern but fair Queen Elizabeth, as does Ben Affleck as the concelated actor Ned Alleyne. (Michael O'Sullivan, WP)

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

LONDON
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily, Jan. 23 to April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century." Features 80 paintings completed in the final decades of the French Impressionist's life. Includes the three series created in London—the Houses of Parliament, the bridges of Charing Cross and Waterloo—as well as paintings made in Venice and Giverny. www.royalacademy.org.uk

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN
Statens Museum for Kunst, tel: 33-74-84-94, closed Mondays. To Jan. 25: "Hendt Melis: Four Great Collectors." At the time of World War I, two Russians and two Danes gathered important collections of works by Melis. The Russian collections were taken over by the Soviet state, while the Danish collections were scattered. More than 40 paintings are brought together, including 25 on loan from the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

FRANCE

PARIS
Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, tel: 01-53-47-40-00, closed Mondays. Continuing/To April 18: "Mark Rothko." A chronological presentation of the American artist's work. Musée-Galerie de la Seita, tel: 01-45-56-60-17, closed Mondays and holidays. To March 7: "Kokoschka: Peintures et Œuvres sur Papier, 1906-1931." A selection of early paintings, drawings and watercolors of portraits and landscapes by the Austrian painter (1896-1980).

GERMANY

COLOGNE
Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 221-23-82, closed Mondays. To Jan. 21: "Fin de Siècle: Graphic Art in Europe Around 1900." As the 19th century drew to a close, Europe was torn between nostalgia and optimism over the future. More than 150 graphic works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Edvard Munch, James Ensor and Felicien Rops reflect the in-between mood, as well as the conflicting influences of



A 1908 Kokoschka watercolor of a dancer in a blue dress, at the Musée-Galerie de la Seita in Paris.

Impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nouveau.

NETHERLANDS

ROTTERDAM
Kunsthal, tel: (10) 44-00-300, closed Mondays. Continuing/To Feb. 28: "Flower Still Life From the Netherlands and Belgium, 1670-1940." Works by Ensor, Van Gogh and Mondrian, among others.

TAIWAN

TAIPEI
Chang Foundation, tel: (2) 2356-9575, closed Feb. 15-16. To March 14: "Tibetan and Qing Dynasty

Buddhist Images." On loan from the Summer Palace at Chengde, China, the exhibition includes a mock-up of a Tibetan shrine as well as a drum from a human skull that was presented by the Great Fifth Dalai Lama to the Chinese emperor in 1652.

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. Continuing/To Feb. 2: "Dufrenoy to De Kooning: Expressionist Prints From Europe and America." A variety of prints by contemporary artists of Jackson Pollock in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, such as Motherwell, Hartung, Soulages and Aleschinsky. www.moma.org

ASIAN TOUR

Leonard Statkin, music director, leads the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington in a tour of several Asian cities: Beijing (Great Hall and Century Theatre, Jan. 27 and 28); Shanghai (Grand Theatre, Jan. 30); Hong Kong (Cultural Center, Feb. 1). The trip also features concerts in Nagoya (Feb. 5), Yokohama (Feb. 7) and Tokyo (Feb. 8 and 9).

CLOSING SOON

AMERICAS
Jan. 24: "Mary Cassatt: Drawings and Prints." Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Jan. 24: "Masterpieces From the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Guggenheim Museums." Guggenheim Museum, New York.

ASIA
Jan. 24: "Baccarat: L'Etat de la Lumière." Suntory Museum, Osaka, Japan.

EUROPE
Jan. 22: "Treasures for King Zhao Mu: The Nan Yue Tomb." Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt.

Jan. 24: "Giambattista Tiepolo, 1696-1770." Petit Palais, Paris.

Jan. 25: "Picasso, 1901-1909: Œuvres d'Art, New York." Musée Picasso, Paris.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

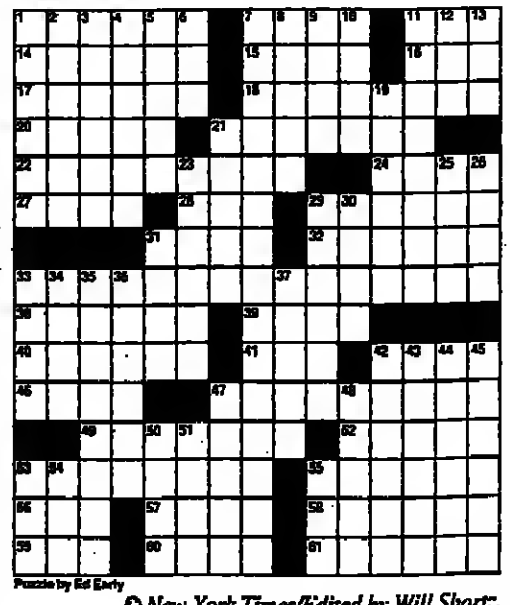
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Top stones
7 Graters' needs
11 Tolkien cannibal
14 Graft
15 From square one
16 Kind of patch
17 "Dialogues of the Gods" satirist
18 Least obscure
20 Insurance play
21 Pool tool
22 Climate of an era
24 Sing the blues
27 While-tailed birds

28 Surname separator
29 Fly over the Equator
30 George Böcher's "Loonies and —"
32 Cause of hereditary variation
33 Distant is stuck on it
36 Inevitable process
38 Didn't stand pat
40 Fraser portrayer
41 Didn't function
42 It may be lost or saved

43 Antidiscrimination agency
47 Swinger, perhaps
48 Chump change in Chintheus
49 Longshoreman
50 Homer's "Eight Bells," e.g.
51 Disqualify, as a juror
52 Muesli morsel
57 Paul Bunyan, at times
58 Passes
59 Fitting
60 Is a good Samaritan
61 Bow ties and others

10 Was dizzy
11 Didn't malfunction
12 HI—
13 Russian blue, e.g.
19 Join again, in a way
21 St. Catherine's birthplace
23 Physicist's study
25 — au Haut, Me.
26 Goatskin gloves
29 Concern of some agencies
30 Popular picnic dish
31 Unattended
32 Decorator's base
34 S-curve
35 Move
36 Winter arrival
37 One of a mythological enmesh
42 Row
43 Take away
44 Gentle slope with a sudden drop
48 Go out
49 Made fun of
50 "Multistate" role
51 Wildcat's org.
52 Pickier-upper



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Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 21
ACROSS
1 AGES
7 MEDALS
11 PETS
14 ANITA
15 ATOE
16 PASSOUT
17 FAILSAFE
18 STEEPLE
19 DUSTUP
20 BEES
21 KANE
22 RUMDOWN
23 WALKUP
24 WOODS
25 HOAR APE
26 AUNT
27 GRANK
28 STANDOUT
29 STIR IRAS
30 CROTIC
31 COCARTS
32 COOLCATS
33 SHOTGUNS
34 MAZE
35 LAPEL
36 MIT
37 ODES
38 SPARS
39 REFS

DOWN
1 Like hell
2 Band member, often
3 Alarm bell
4 Sherwood's "Delight"
5 Repeated word in "The Trolley Song"
6 Cambodian coin
7 Conversation steers?
8 Not 1-Down
9 Judge

See our International Franchises every Wednesday in The Intermarket

BOOKS

EUCALYPTUS

By Murray Bail, 255 pages.

\$23. Farrar Strauss Giroux.

Reviewed by Jack Sullivan

IN one of the many intertwining fables of "Eucalyptus," the new novel by the Australian National Book Award winner Murray Bail, a young Frenchman abandons his family in the 1920s for the lure of a New World: "The undulating shape of Australia in the blue of the southern ocean beckoned in all its mysterious emptiness. He'd never met anyone who had actually been there. Cuba and Tahiti, yes, but not Australia. The closest was a Russian émigré tennis coach he'd met socially who claimed to have seen the gigantic straw-colored out-

line fluctuating before him during a recent heart attack."

"Eucalyptus" beckons the reader in a similar way. An Australian version of magic realism, this mesmerizing novel by the author of "Holden's Performance" consists of dreamlike stories within stories chronicling exotic odysseys. The one cited above involves the discovery of a gigantic silver mine, the impossibility of photographing Aborigines, the metaphysics of mirrors and the explanation of crows' blackness.

Yet nothing in this circuitous yarn has any specific bearing on the main narrative, the fairy tale of a man who will only allow his beautiful daughter Ellen to marry the suitor who successfully names the hundreds of eucalyptus trees he has planted on his

New South Wales property.

Bereft of conventional action, motivation, dialogue and character development, "Eucalyptus" offers eccentric meditations on art, landscape, gender differences, history and much else, all branching from the seductive tales Ellen's suitors tell her and from the botanical lore of the trees they try to name.

Like the heath in "Wuthering Heights," Bail's gum trees are mysteriously alive, often paralleling human traits. The Leaf Red Ironbark, for example, has a "weeping habit," its leaves "drooping in a shimmer of real melancholy.... It has shaded in khaki-grey our everyday stories, and when and how they are told, even the myths and legends, such as they are, just as surely as the Norwegians have been formed by snow and ice.... Each leaf hanging downwards suggests another hard-luck story."

As if to fill the emptiness of the Australian landscape, Bail's characters preoccupy themselves with endless classifications and definitions, mainly of trees but also birds, narratives, national traits, art objects. To Mr. Cave, Ellen's most ambitious suitor, eucalyptus trees are "an intricate object he could almost contain with his own shape, as if it was a single, endlessly reproducing person." Classifying trees is a green refuge in a desert world.

To Ellen, all youthful openness, this attempt to close off reality with names and measurements is alien and frightening. She wants Mr. Cave and the others to fail, so much so that she goes into a death-like swoon. The only man who interests her is a handsome, ghostlike stranger who

keeps appearing in the trees

"like a perpetual warm wind," telling better stories than her suitors but vanishing when she needs him.

"Eucalyptus" is short, just over novella-length, but in a meditation on storytelling, the omniscient narrator contrasts the iron law that "all good stories are slow stories" with its counterpart: "The briefest anecdote can produce an echo of really curious, indelible power."

Curious power is precisely what this novel delivers. Part of its charm is its style, the quirky sentences that rarely go where we expect, the sinister Arthur Machen-esque beauty of the landscape descriptions, the meandering stories that fail to deliver their expected allegories, that never really end but instead begin others.

Ellen finds these tales "suspended, unsatisfied," like her life, and therefore all the more compelling: a story is "powerful for what it may have represented... for what it didn't say exactly." Attempts to put closure on stories are just as futile as attempts to classify nature.

At the very end, quite by accident, the final story connects with the central narrative, turning this poetic but rather inhuman novel into an unusual love story—only to begin all over again. It is a strangely satisfying nonconclusion, a haunting illustration of Murray Bail's favorite theme, "the randomness of true harmony."

Jack Sullivan, author of the forthcoming "New World Symphonies: How American Culture Changed European Music," wrote this for The Washington Post.

Don't miss the upcoming section:

Investing in European Real Estate

on January 26, 1999

Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

After Long Military Rule, Nigeria Prepares to Elect a President

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

LAGOS — By the most obvious measures, Nigeria's six-month-old transition from military to civilian rule is going well.

The government of General Abdulsalam Abacha has held credible elections for local and state authorities, and black Africa's most populous country is entering high campaign season for the election on Feb. 27 of its first national civilian leadership in 15 years.

Nigerian and foreign analysts warn that the transition could be disrupted before General Abacha hands over power on May 29, notably by continued upheaval in the oil-rich Niger River delta region or by corrupt military officers unwilling to cede power and its riches. Still, a successful shift to civilian rule

appears to be more likely, and people are beginning to ask how a civilian government will address Nigeria's multiple crises, of which the delta uprising and a crunch in government finances will be the most urgent.

The army has ruled for 28 of Nigeria's 38 years, compressing what was a federal republic into an authoritarian, centralized state. Hausa-speaking Muslims of the north have dominated both the army and its governments, suppressing demands by other groups — principally ethnic Ibo and Yoruba — for more power.

Especially under the two previous ruling generals, Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha, those in power have stolen billions of dollars from the state and let the country's economic infrastructure collapse. General Abacha's sudden death last June elevated General

Abacha, who a month later announced the return to civilian rule.

Nigerian and international election monitors declared that local elections in December and state elections Jan. 9 were fair, and General Abacha appears to have broad acceptance for his plan to decree a restoration of the constitution that was used during Nigeria's last experiment with civilian rule, from 1979 to 1983.

Nigerians display more confidence that, after the army's many broken promises to quit power, General Abacha intends to see the process through.

Even among Nigerians who were skeptical of General Abacha's intent at the start, "People think the military is going to go this time," said Ayo Obe, a Lagos attorney and president of a national human rights group, the Civil

Liberties Organization. "The concern now is that they are stoking up a lot of problems" for a civilian government to deal with, she said.

However the voting turns out, Nigeria's next government will be a broad, perhaps awkward, coalition. Two of the three parties that qualified for national elections are umbrella groups that lack detailed policy positions on the country's problems. Rather, in a measure of how General Abacha's legacy dominates politics, the parties are best defined by their attitude toward him.

The People's Democratic Party, a broad coalition led by politicians who opposed General Abacha publicly, has won at least half the votes nationwide in each round of elections so far. The All People's Party, which includes many civilians who served in General Abacha's camp, is dubbed by many the

"Abacha People's Party" and this month took just over a third of votes in the state elections. It is seeking to form a joint ticket with the third party, the Yoruba-dominated Alliance for Democracy, which has swept voting in the densely populated southwest.

The People's Democratic Party's most prominent presidential hopeful is Olusegun Obasanjo, the only one of Nigeria's ruling generals to have handed power back to civilians. But General Obasanjo is unpopular among his fellow Yorubas and has failed to deliver his home region to the party. Analysts say this could swing the nomination to Alex Ekwueme, a prominent Ibo who served as vice president in the previous civilian government in the early '80s.

The government is trying to calm the disorder in the delta before the presidential election. The delta, heart of an oil belt that provides 80 percent of government revenue, has been in a state of near insurrection since August, as impoverished ethnic groups demand a share of the oil wealth pumped from beneath their lands.

In recent weeks, authorities and oil companies have talked many calls of village youths into allowing the reopening of oil fields the youths had seized last fall in the latest uprising. But many groups, radicalized by years of unfilled government promises, remain suspicious. Armed mystical cults of the Ife god of war, Egbesu, secreted in trackless creeks and mangrove swamps, have the potential to ignite a prolonged guerrilla war in a region thick with vulnerable oil installations, a Western diplomat said.

After troops fired on an Ijaw protest march, squads of militant gunmen swept in from the swamps to attack troops in Bayelsa state over several days this month, reportedly leaving 20 people dead. In an indication of the delta's danger to the political transition process, the fighting forced cancellation of state elections in Bayelsa.

General Abacha sent hundreds more troops to the state, where they search travelers on the roads, arresting youths whose backs bear the tattoos of the Egbesu cults. The troops are untrained for policing duties, have shown poor discipline and often are Hausa speakers unable to communicate with the local tribes, said Miss Obe, the attorney and human rights activist. Human rights groups and newspapers say Bayelsa residents report frequent looting and assaults by the troops.

Miss Obe and others said that General Abacha has failed to make any dramatic gesture for reconciliation in the delta. He has called for talks rather than violence, but has "provided no forum for this so-called dialogue," said Tell, a Nigerian newsmagazine.

Showing Washington's concern, the U.S. Embassy this month dispatched its chief political officer to meet protesting groups and discourage violence. Jesse Jackson, a Clinton administration envoy to Africa, is to visit the delta in coming weeks, a U.S. official said.

Another danger that General Abacha cannot ignore is that some military officers, unwilling to give up corrupt moneymaking that the armed forces have pursued in power, might attempt a coup to prevent the civilian takeover, analysts said.

BRIEFLY

Some Saddam Foes Reject U.S. Funding

KUWAIT — The main Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition group on Thursday rejected an aid offer from Washington to help finance efforts to topple President Saddam Hussein.

"Our answer is thank you but no thank you," said Hamid Bayan, British representative of the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The Clinton administration on Tuesday designated seven Iraqi opposition groups as eligible for U.S. aid, including the Tehran-based coalition that dominates Shiite Muslim resistance to the Iraqi government.

"We have not received any aid from the United States and believe that this is an incorrect way to deal with the Iraqi opposition," Mr. Bayan said. (Reuters)

Tehran Halts Rite Honoring Liberal

TEHRAN — Police in Tehran forcibly dispersed thousands of people commemorating the anniversary Thursday of the death of a former prime minister and Islamic liberal opposition leader, Mehdi Bazargan.

Police intervened at the end of a ceremony at a mosque in northern Tehran after 10,000 people poured into the streets and shouted slogans in support of President Mohammad Khatami and against his conservative opponents.

Mr. Bazargan, who died in 1995, led an interim government that came to power after the 1979 Islamic revolution. His government collapsed under pressure from the Shiite Muslim clergy opposed to his liberal domestic and foreign policies, notably his condemnation of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in November 1979. (AP)

Barbados Voters Back Government

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Prime Minister Owen Arthur's party has won all but two Parliament seats in a landslide victory, with voters approving the government's solid economic performance.

With 97 percent of the results counted early Thursday, Mr. Arthur's party had unbeatable leads in 26 of the 28 constituencies. (AP)

For the Record

Two U.S. college students who were among five women raped by highway robbers in Guatemala a year ago have testified in the trial in Escuintla of three men accused of the attack and "fully identified" all three, the state prosecutor said. (Reuters)

Pakistan Says It Had No Role In Bomb Plot

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — The chief Pakistani diplomat in New Delhi categorically denied Thursday that a Bangladeshi man arrested here and accused of plotting to bomb U.S. consulates in Madras and Calcutta was a Pakistani intelligence agent, as New Delhi police have alleged.

Ashraf Qazi, the Pakistani high commissioner, said the idea that his country would participate in a terrorist attack on U.S. diplomatic missions was "ridiculous."

"Pakistan and the United States have a perfectly good relationship," he said. "Our prime minister has recently completed a productive tour of the United States. We have ongoing talks at the highest level. It's nothing short of madness to suggest that any part of the Pakistani government would involve themselves in such an enterprise."

But that is exactly what the New Delhi police allege. And the United States sent a team of counterterrorism experts this week to investigate that charge, as well as the possibility that Osama bin Laden, the terrorist who is No. 1 on America's wanted list, may have been involved.

Security officials from the U.S. Embassy have already talked to the man, Sayed Abu Nasir, 27, during the 11 days that the New Delhi police were interrogating him. The new team of Americans who arrived Tuesday were expected to conduct more interviews of Mr. Nasir after he is transferred to police authorities in West Bengal for further questioning.

"The counterterrorism team is coming to determine the credibility of the charges made," said Donna Roginski, spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. "If the charges are true, they are very, very serious and you need to consider them carefully. But you've got to determine how reliable they are."



A Romanian miner running with tear-gas grenade launcher he seized from a policeman on Thursday.

Romanian Miners Breach Police Barriers

Agence France-Press

HOREZU, Romania — Thousands of striking coal miners charged through highway barricades here Thursday, seizing a local government official and several policemen as hostages in a protest march on Bucharest, the private television station Pro-TV said.

The broadcast said that about 100 people, mostly police officers, had been injured in the violence that erupted near here as the police tried to block the miners' procession from reaching the capital, 200 kilometers (125 miles) to the east.

Hospital sources said at least 67 people, three in critical condition, were taken to the hospital here and that 28 were hospitalized in Rimnicu Vilcea.

"The demonstrators are well-organized," a government spokesman, Razvan Popescu, said in Bucharest. "They

are attacking according to precise military procedure." Meanwhile, the president's office confirmed the earlier reported resignation of Interior Minister Gavril Dejeu, naming his replacement as Constantin Dudu Ionescu.

Thousands of policemen wielding truncheons first charged the miners when they tried to break through barricades outside Horezu.

Before the clashes, the government spokesman said Bucharest had been informed that the leader of the miners, Miron Cozma, had rejected the latest offer for talks and ordered his followers to resume their march.

"If the miners try to force the roadblock, all we can do is apply the law," the spokesman said somberly.

The miners had gathered earlier at the massive concrete barricades after defiantly rejecting a new government offer to open discussions in the conflict.

CLINTON: Democrats Say the Tide Is Going the President's Way

Continued from Page 1

York and Pennsylvania to seek support for some of the initiatives he unveiled in his Tuesday address, proposed a plan to train retiring soldiers to fill teaching vacancies in the nation's classrooms.

Thursday was the first anniversary of the scandal that has shaken the presidency. It was on Jan. 21, 1998, that newspaper accounts first brought the name of Monica Lewinsky to public attention.

In his arguments to the Senate, Mr. Kendall focused his attack on the impeachment article that accuses Mr. Clinton of obstruction of justice. He said it was "based on circumstantial evidence, and that evidence is at best profoundly ambiguous."

"If a criminal charge is to be based on conclusions drawn from circumstantial evidence rather than from direct evidence," he said, "those conclusions have got to be virtually unavoidable."

Far from unavoidable, Mr. Kendall said, the House prosecutors were trying to project their own desires into the senators' minds. Those prosecutors, he

said, had not "painted a picture" of Mr. Clinton's guilt, as they claimed. "I think what they've in fact done is given you a Rorschach test."

He again called the senators' attention to a now-famous Lewinsky statement made in grand jury testimony: "No one ever asked me to lie, and I was never promised a job for my silence." He read the phrase twice and, after a pause for impact, added dryly, "Is there something difficult to understand here?"

Mr. Kendall was followed by what the White House hoped would be a powerful closing argument from the former Arkansas senator Dale Bumpers, a fiery orator and longtime Clinton friend who only a few days ago was invited to speak for the president's legal team.

Mr. Bumpers, 73, who enjoys wide respect from senators in both parties, was to appeal to his colleagues to spare the country the turmoil of an unjustified and unpopular conviction of the president.

Gregory Craig, a White House special counsel who was a law school classmate of Mr. Clinton's, attacked the Republican prosecutors' case as being overly

vague and dealing with allegations that in some cases he said were "frivolous."

"The allegations are frequently trivial, almost always technical, often immaterial, and always insubstantial," Mr. Craig said.

In a plea to senators' political sides, Mr. Craig urged them not to "throw our politics into the darkness of endless recrimination."

To convict Mr. Clinton, he said, would "inject a poison of bitter partisanship into the body politic which, like a virus, can move through our national bloodstream for years to come."

Mr. Craig was followed by Cheryl Mills, a deputy White House counsel. A young black woman, her appearance stood in contrast to the 13 Republican prosecutors, and the two White House attorneys who preceded her, all of whom are white men.

"I stand here before you today because President Bill Clinton believed I could stand here with him," Ms. Mills said. "This president's record on civil rights, on women's rights, on all of our rights, is unimpeachable."



Members of President Clinton's defense team, Cheryl Mills, left, and Greg Craig, leaving the Capitol.

ENVOY: Nominee to UN Faces Ethics Fine

Continued from Page 1

employer. Under federal ethics laws, former government officials are barred from a variety of lobbying contacts with their former colleagues.

Mr. Holbrooke, who is known for his accessibility to reporters, and his lawyers did not return repeated phone calls seeking comment.

A Justice Department official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, would say only that "the case is in the process of negotiation, and the negotiations hinge on a civil penalty."

Spokesmen for the Justice Department and Credit Suisse First Boston had no comment Wednesday on the negotiations.

The nomination of Mr. Holbrooke, the architect of the Dayton peace agreement of 1995 that ended the war in Bosnia, was initially sidetracked last summer by the anonymous allegations involving the U.S. Embassy in Hungary.

Apparently while still employed at the State Department in 1995, according to the allegations, he illegally contacted the embassy in Hungary on behalf of Credit Suisse First Boston. The company had sought his help in securing a consulting contract with the Hungarian government.

Officials said none of the evidence gathered against Mr. Holbrooke by the Justice Department involving his business contacts in South Korea suggested criminal wrongdoing. Instead, they said, the prosecutors consider the infractions to be civil violations of the law, requiring Mr. Holbrooke to pay a fine to settle the issue.

One official compared his situation to that of Anthony Lake, the former national security adviser, who paid \$5,000 to the Justice Department in 1997 to settle a civil inquiry regarding his stock holdings, an investigation that arose after he had been nominated by Mr. Clinton to become director of central intelligence. Mr. Lake later withdrew his nomination.

Other government officials and friends of Mr. Holbrooke said the comparison with Mr. Lake was unfair. While Mr. Lake may have withdrawn his nomination in part because of the dispute over his stock holdings and the Justice Department investigation, he also faced far more intense criticism in the Senate over policy decisions made while he was national security adviser.

The negotiations between the Justice Department and Mr. Holbrooke's lawyers come at an awkward time for Mr.

Holbrooke, who remains a special envoy to the White House on the Balkans and who has been actively involved in shaping an American response to the massacre last weekend of dozens of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Clinton administration officials say that despite the Justice Department investigation, Mr. Clinton remained firmly committed to the nomination of Mr. Holbrooke.

Peter Bureleigh, a respected career diplomat who holds the rank of ambassador, has been leading the U.S. delegation in the interim. He will likely continue in that post for a number of months.

Even if Mr. Holbrooke is able to reach a settlement soon with the Justice Department, his nomination must still be reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and confirmed by the full Senate, which is now consumed with the Clinton impeachment trial.

CANCER: Forget a Fiber Diet

Continued from Page 1

New England Journal of Medicine. "That is not to say that fiber is not a good thing. It is still helpful, but not for colon cancer."

Indeed, experts were quick to urge people to continue to eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, primarily because those fiber-rich foods protect against the leading killer in the United States, heart disease — a fact widely advertised by cereal makers.

In addition, a high-fiber diet has been shown to prevent other types of cancer, including cancer of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus and stomach, according to Dr. Michael Thun, vice president for epidemiology at the American Cancer Society.

But none of these are as common as colorectal cancer, which kills more Americans — an estimated 57,000 in 1998 — than any type of cancer except lung cancer.

While experts say the best way to prevent colorectal cancer is to undergo regular screening, some were unconvinced by the findings of Dr. Fuchs and his colleagues.

They argued that Dr. Burkitt's hypothesis might indeed be true but was difficult to prove through a study that relied on participants to accurately recall their own eating habits, as the Boston study did.

Sammy Solovitz, 71, Colorful N.Y. Times Copy Boy Chief, Dies

By Michael T. Kaufman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Sammy Solovitz, 71, a wise-cracking, hard-living mentor to generations of copy boys at the New York Times, died Jan. 12 in Houston.

Mr. Solovitz died of natural but as yet undetermined causes, said his niece, Brenda Polansky. He had lived in Texas since his retirement in 1984.

From the day he was hired at the Times, Nov. 18, 1943, Samuel Leo Solovitz captivated the low and the mighty with his feisty manner and pugnacious wit. To the scores of well-known reporters and editors who came to the business through his newsroom boot camp, he became a figure in lore, a symbol of an era when newsrooms still pulsated to the clack of typewriters and copy boys rushed stories, a few paragraphs at a time, from reporters to editors, and then to the printers in the composing room.

On the day he was hired, he was 16 and delivering telegrams. At 4 feet 9 inches (1.44 meters), he was too short for the army but tall enough to work as a uniformed messenger for Western Union. When he whisked into the city room,

Edwin James, the managing editor, looked up from his desk and was intrigued by the sight of a pillbox bobbing above a railing that surrounded his corner office, all he could see of Mr. Solovitz.

Mr. James investigated and engaged the messenger in conversation. The messenger spoke his mind. (He always did.) Mr. James hired him on the spot.

Mr. Solovitz had found his calling and rose quickly to become head of the night-side copy boys, supervising a crew of journalistic aspirants, many of whom would stay in the business.

Over 40 years, Mr. Solovitz developed a fine eye for character and talent. "He was the best judge of people," said Arthur Gelb, who started as a copy boy and later became the paper's managing editor.

Among those who counted him as their first boss at the Times are Russell Lewis, now president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Co.; Joseph Lelyveld, executive editor of the Times; Norman Pearlstine, who led The Wall Street Journal and who is now the editor in chief of Time Inc.; and Vice President Al Gore, who spent a summer as a copy boy.

Mr. Solovitz would start work at 7:30

P.M. and finish at 3 A.M., when the last edition went to press, repeatedly goading his dawdling charges: "Tell your story walking!" or "This is a daily, not a weekly!" or "Where do you think you are, the Yale Club?"

In time, Mr. Solovitz became the stuff of legend. A. J. Liebling, the "Wayward Press" critic for The New Yorker, called him "a newsroom institution." Sketches of him appeared in Editor & Publisher and The Columbia Journalism Review. He lectured to students at the Columbia School of Journalism.

More informally, he would pass on the romance and lore of the newspaper business to his charges, telling them what happened in the newsroom on V-E Day or V-J Day, or the day that Franklin D. Roosevelt died, or the nights that Robert F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated. Sometimes he would do it over late-night poker games or sometimes he would tell his story walking, heading to Sam Wo's restaurant at 3 o'clock in the morning or taking copy boys — there were not yet any copy girls — eager for authenticity to race tracks or to second-floor tearooms on Allen Street, where men with pinkie rings played cards until after dawn.

When technological change came to the newsroom in the 1980s, Mr. Solovitz took it hard. He had loved the Linotypes, the delivery trucks being loaded outside the building, even the spittoons. When computers replaced typewriters, copy boys, and, by then, copy girls, were no longer as vital to the operation as they had been. Smoking was increasingly frowned upon, not to mention spittoons.

Eugene S. Pulliam, 84, Publisher and Defender of Press Freedom

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eugene S. Pulliam, 84, publisher of The Indianapolis Star and The Indianapolis News and a staunch defender of press freedom during a 64-year news career, died here Wednesday.

Mr. Pulliam became publisher after his father, Eugene C. Pulliam, died in 1975. The Star won the Pulitzer Prize that same year for an investigation of police corruption and in 1991 for a series on medical malpractice.

In the early 1950s, Mr. Pulliam assailed the smear tactics of Senator Joseph McCarthy and throughout his career defended the free-press protections of the First Amendment.

Asians Warn of Trade Wars

Taiwan and Thailand Fear Effects of Imbalances

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

TAIPEI — The risk of trade conflicts around the world is sharply escalating as Asian nations attempt to export their way out of economic crisis by selling cut-price goods to the United States and Europe, the foreign minister of Taiwan warned neighboring countries Thursday.

Widening trade imbalances "may bring measures of sanctions, punishment or retaliation — war in the political and trade sense," Foreign Minister Jason Hu said in an interview.

Taiwan is now preparing a "Buy American" campaign to combat its increasing imbalance in trade with the United States, Mr. Hu said. Details of the campaign, he said, would be spelled out in coming weeks.

"The widening trade surplus or deficit, depending on which side you look at it, will become a serious foreign policy issue and affect foreign relations," Mr. Hu said.

As Mr. Hu spoke, the United States announced Thursday that its trade deficit had shot up to \$15.5 billion in November as imports climbed to an all-time high. The widening deficit in U.S. goods and services in the first 11 months of last year eclipsed the record set in 1987.

Mr. Hu's comments were echoed Thursday in Bangkok by a leading contender for the leadership of the World Trade Organization, and they came a day after Washington toughened its stance against Japanese steel exports.

Supachai Panichpakdi, the Thai commerce minister and a candidate to lead the Geneva-based WTO, which promotes free trade, said the United States would likely have a record \$300 billion trade deficit this year and warned trading nations against retaliatory reactions, Agency France-Press reported.

"A tit-for-tat response will result in a severe slump in world trade," he told a forum of Thai exporters.

"International trading will not be easy this year," Mr. Supachai said.

In Washington, Charlene Barshefsky, the U.S.

trade representative, warned Wednesday that if there were not "substantial declines" in imports of Japanese steel, the Clinton administration would act against Tokyo, possibly by seeking tough duties on Japanese steel.

"The key test," she said, "will be the December export data" from Japan, which the administration plans to make public in February, she told members of Congress representing steel constituencies. "There is no wiggle room for Japan on steel," she said.

The United States has also warned of punitive duties on European imports worth \$520 million unless the European Union drops restrictions on banana imports from certain countries while favoring others.

Mr. Hu said that while Taiwan was seriously concerned about the situation and already preparing to take action, other countries have done nothing.

He emphasized China's \$40 billion trade surplus with the United States.

"In the old days, these tensions could lead to gunboat diplomacy," he said. "Fortunately, people have learned to deal with these issues with talks or trade measures or things short of real conflict."

Statistics released Thursday in Taipei by the Ministry of Economic Affairs showed orders from some of the island's Asian customers falling by nearly a third last year, while buyers from United States and some European countries sharply increased their orders.

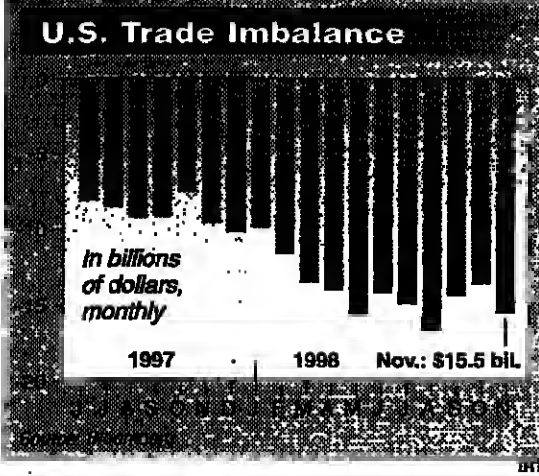
The United States, Taiwan's largest customer, last year increased orders by 6 percent to \$40 billion, while German orders shot up by 22 percent and those from Britain increased by 13 percent. Meanwhile, Singapore orders fell by about 28 percent, those from Japan dropped 18 percent and orders from Hong Kong fell about 10 percent.

Positive signs from regional economies toward the end of last year brought on misplaced optimism, Mr. Hu said, adding that the recent spate of unexpected turbulence in Taiwan's stock mar-

See TAIPEI, Page 12



Jason Hu, Taiwan's foreign minister, sees risk of trade sanctions. Charlene Barshefsky has warned of U.S. action on steel imports.



U.S. Trade Deficit Soars

As Imports Hit a Record

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit shot up to \$15.5 billion in November as American exports of aircraft, computer equipment and farm products fell sharply while imports climbed to an all-time high, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

The November deficit was up 14 percent from a revised October figure of \$13.6 billion. The increase reflected record imports of computer parts and telecommunications equipment as well as automobiles and consumer goods within the overall total of \$94.1 billion.

U.S. manufacturers continued to be battered by the global financial crisis, which has cut deeply into their export sales while triggering a flood of relatively inexpensive imports into the United States.

With one month still to be counted, the U.S. trade deficit in goods and services has already hit an all-time high of \$153.9 billion, surpassing the mark of \$153.4 billion set in 1987. After December is counted, the deficit for the year is likely to climb to about \$164 billion, far above the overall 1997 deficit of \$110 billion.

Economists are predicting even worse news for 1999 as an economic slowdown covering more than one-third of the globe cuts into U.S. exports and beleaguers Asian countries try to export their way back to prosperity by shipping goods to America.

The White House has taken to insisting that the United States cannot be the "importer of last resort" and has called on Europe, the other region of the world still prospering in the face of global adversity, to take more goods as well.

Robert Shapiro, the Commerce Department undersecretary, said, "The basic dynamic behind these data remains the strength of our economy and the weakness of many of our trading partners."

Wall Street had little reaction to the widening trade deficit. The Dow Jones industrial

average closed down a little less than 1 percent. President Bill Clinton, in his State of the Union address this week, said the United States would push for a new global round of trade-liberalization talks aimed at countering rising protectionist forces. But domestic political pressures are forcing Mr. Clinton to take a tougher protectionist line when it comes to steel, a key industry in which Japanese imports threaten to overwhelm domestic producers.

The latest U.S. data indicated that the surge in steel imports began to abate in November, although steel imports for all of 1998 were still far ahead of the 1997 pace. For the first 11 months of the year, steel imports from Japan were up \$1.27 billion to \$2.88 billion.

The government said Thursday that next year it would issue a special report three weeks ahead of the normal monthly trade figures that would cover only steel imports, to better monitor developments.

While America's deficits with both Japan and China were down slightly in November, for the year they were running well ahead of the 1997 pace. With Japan, the deficit came to \$58.2 billion through November, up 14 percent from a year ago; for China, the 11-month total was \$52.9 billion, an increase of 15.5 percent.

For the entire Pacific Rim region, swept by the crisis that began in Thailand in July 1997, the U.S. trade deficit was up a sharp 34 percent, to \$148.7 billion, through November.

For November, overall imports rose 0.4 percent, to a record \$94.1 billion. The rise was caused by big increases in imports of computer chips, telecommunications equipment, autos and furniture. Exports fell 1.9 percent, to \$78.7 billion, as sales of farm products such as soybeans, rice and wheat declined. Sales of manufactured goods including commercial aircraft, computer equipment, computer chips and telecommunications products were down as well.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

Real Falls Despite Vote In Brazil

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRASILIA — Brazil's newly floating currency plunged Thursday despite approval by the lower house of Congress of a pivotal austerity measure intended to reassure investors.

The real fell to 1.70 to the dollar from a close of 1.56 to the dollar Wednesday, representing a devaluation of around 30 percent since Jan. 12, when Brazil still clung to an exchange rate pegged to the dollar.

The central bank reiterated that it was prepared to leave the value of the real up to the market. "There is no intention of intervening, and I am unaware of any intention in that respect," said Altamir Lopes, head of the bank's economics department. The stock market also fell, with the Bovespa index down 4.6 percent at 7,321.34 points.

Traders said shares had slipped because investors were taking profits after several sessions of rising prices. The decline of the real was attributed to market jitters about various factors, including high interest rates and speculation about a possible devaluation of the Chinese yuan.

Many traders had expected a calmer scenario after the lower house of Congress passed a bill cutting federal pensions, increasing the government's chances of trimming the budget deficit.

The cuts would affect about 300,000 retirees and save the government an estimated \$2.5 billion a year. The Senate must still vote on the measure.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso said the vote by the lower house had sent a message to international investors that Congress was willing to embrace measures deemed essential to reinvigorating the largest economy in Latin America.

"The vote demonstrates Congress's understanding of Brazil's deepest problems," he said.

Antonio Delfim Netto, a member of Congress and former finance minister, had said that although he did not agree with the measure, he would vote for it "to stop the dollar going through the roof."

Other members of Congress took a different view.

"We're taking money from the elderly just to show foreign investors we're working on the crisis," said Paulo Paim of the Workers Party in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

(Reuters, AP)

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Doing Business Abroad: The Word From China

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — A fair criticism often leveled at policy experts in the nation's capital is that they live in an ivory tower, detached from the real world of business and finance. So it is refreshing to come across a contribution to debate in Washington that is the fruit of extensive field research among American international business executives.

Such is a new book by Daniel Rosen, "Behind the Open Door: Foreign Enterprises in the Chinese Marketplace," an in-depth look at how foreign companies operate in China and the consequences for U.S. policy, published by the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

This kind of hard-nosed research is all the more welcome because U.S. policy toward China is particularly prone to takeover by activists with axes to grind on issues ranging from human rights to the transfer of military technology that often have more to do with American domestic politics than with anything actually happening in China.

One of the complaints of the numerous American executives Mr. Rosen interviewed in China is that people back home do not appreciate how deeply China is committed to economic liberalization and how far foreign companies are helping to change Chinese society by bringing Western entrepreneurial culture to the working place.

Nor are the companies' biggest problems those that Washington often supposes. China's notorious demands that foreign companies meet stringent export and local-content requirements, and transfer technology to Chinese partners, are less onerous than is often thought, thanks to loopholes and lax enforcement, the managers say.

In fact, they say, the lengthy and difficult negotiations to bring China into the World Trade Organization — often seen as the key to anchoring China firmly in the world economy — are not really tackling the issues that most concern foreign businesses. While China's official import tariffs,

for instance, figure prominently in the negotiations, effective duties are far below the official rate.

And whereas WTO rules mostly affect government behavior, the threats to China's economic openness will increasingly come from private practices — such as restrictions on distribution arrangements and business partnerships — just as has frequently happened in Japan.

A bizarre consequence is that some foreign companies that succeed in establishing a niche in the Chinese market, through savvy manipulation of the system, may then work against reform to keep out further foreign competitors.

The fundamental problem is that competition policy, under which many shady business practices fall, lies mainly outside the scope of the WTO. That does not mean that it is useless to apply WTO rules to China. On the contrary, membership in the organization would do much to bring China's trading practices up to international standards.

It does mean that competition policy should increasingly be brought into the domain of the WTO. But while the European Union has been keen to do so, the United States has been reluctant, partly because of fears for its sovereignty, partly because it does not want other countries to drag U.S. anti-dumping policy into the discussion.

Many developing countries would also see such a move as a major threat to their sovereignty. But it makes no sense to compel a country such as China or Japan to remove border barriers under WTO rules and then let it thwart imports by, say, declining to distribute them.

It should be possible progressively to introduce practical ways of preventing such behavior into international agreements — a point even China is coming to see. Policymakers in Beijing, Mr. Rosen writes, increasingly recognize that competition is vital to America's economic success and that the lack of it helped precipitate the Asian financial crisis. Those Chinese policy experts may be more in touch with the real world than some of their counterparts in Washington.

E-mail address: Thinkahead@washpost.com

Social Security Split: Who Gets Control?

By Michael M. Weinstein
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — President Bill Clinton's proposal to shore up the financially shaky Social Security system leans heavily on a leading Republican plan. He would take trillions of dollars of general tax revenue and invest at least some of it in the stock market. The plan is attractive because neither Mr. Clinton nor the Republicans would need to propose higher payroll taxes or reductions in retirement benefits.

On this feature, Democrats and Republicans easily agree.

But under Mr. Clinton's plan, unveiled in his State of the Union Address, the government would own stocks. The leading Republican plan, proposed by Martin Feldstein of Harvard University and backed by Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and others on Capitol Hill, would turn the general revenue over to individuals for deposit into their own investment accounts.

Therein lie profound political and financial differences.

The retirement of the baby boomers early in the next century combined with their increased longevity will throw Social Security into deficit. The administration proposes to balance the books by tapping future federal surpluses that it expects will total about \$4.5 trillion over the next 15 years.

Mr. Clinton aims to pump about \$3 trillion of that amount into the trust fund. About \$650 billion of the \$3 trillion would be invested in stocks. Under current law, the entire trust fund is invested in low-yielding government bonds.

The combination of new revenue and high returns on stock investments is expected to generate enough money to eliminate deficits in the program for the next 50 years or so.

The proposal has the political virtue of closing the deficit in Social Security without cutting retirement benefits. And by preserving the central feature of the current system — paying benefits entirely out of public funds — the proposal avoids certain pitfalls of private accounts. The plan would pay retirees a benefit based on their lifelong earnings, not on the vagaries of stock- and bond-market returns.

The plan would preserve the ability to transfer money from high- to low-paid workers. And the costs of administering a single public fund are very low compared with those of setting up 150 million individual accounts.

But the plan solves these financial problems by creating a severe political problem. The administration estimates that government would come up with 4 percent to 5 percent of the value of shares on Wall Street. The danger is that

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See STOCKS, Page 12



Mirabaud Finance S.A.
(a member of the Mirabaud Group)

has purchased from

Jardine Fleming International Holdings Limited
100% of the share capital of

Aegis AG
December 1998

Aegis AG new address as of Jan. 25th 1999 is

Münsterhof 17
(P.O. Box)

CH-8022 Zurich, Switzerland

T: 0041-1-226 38 58

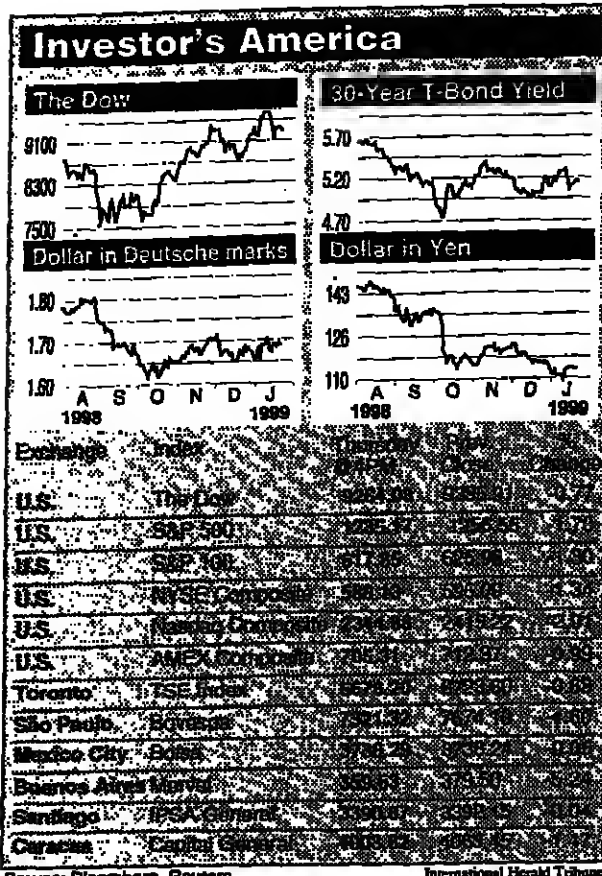
F: 0041-1-226 38 50

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

CURRENCY RATES

Jan. 21										Jan. 21									
Cross Rates										Other Dollar Values									
	\$	£	SF	Yen	CS	Dane	Greek	Swede		Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
London (G)	1.6519	—	2.2882	186.99	—	2.955	10.6041	460.40	12.7791	Argentine peso	0.9998	Hong. dollar	715.93	N. Zealand \$	1.8533	S. Korea won	26.87		
New York (H)	—	1.6867	1.6515	113.70	1.517	4.4245	278.32	7.721	—	Australian \$	1.5442	Indian rupee	47.00	Norw. krone	7.4601	S. Afric. rand	6.025		
Tokyo	113.20	184.45	81.45	74.44	17.58	N.A.	14.67	—	—	Canadian dollar	0.7275	Indon. rupiah	8500.00	Pakist. rupee	49.91	S. Korea won	1172.20		
Toronto	1.5187	2.5103	1.0973	1.3351	—	0.237	0.5458	0.1966	—	Chinese yuan	0.2707	Israeli sheqel	4.854	Phil. peso	38.24	Thailand baht	32.26		
Zurich	1.3836	2.2849	—	1.2248	0.9124	21.5632	0.4966	0.1789	—	Czech koruna	31.45	Latvian lats	100.00	Russian ruble	22.30	Turkish lra	32.253		
One euro	1.1567	0.7037	1.604	130.45	1.7575	7.44	323.11	8.952	—	Egypt. pound	14.505	Malay. ringgit	3.7996	Saudi riyal	3.755	UAE dirham	3.6727		
One SDR	1.4021	0.8493	1.9393	158.72	2.4116	9.0064	390.77	10.8394	—	Hong Kong \$	7.2468	Malaysian ringgit	10.25	Singapore \$	1.624	Vietnam. dyam	578.25		
Euro Values										European Cross Rates									
Fixed rates of the ECU member currencies for one cent:										Euro-ECU rates are permanently fixed									
Austrian schilling	13.7603	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Aust. Schilling	13.7603	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgian franc	40.3399	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Belg. Franc	20.361	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deutsche mark	1.936	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	DM	1.936	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
French franc	6.55957	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Fr. Franc	6.55957	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italian lira	200.484	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	It. Lira	200.484	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish peseta	166.639	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Span. Peseta	166.639	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- **Ford Motor Co.** said fourth-quarter earnings rose a larger-than-expected 6.5 percent, to \$1.67 billion, on strong North American sales of high-profit trucks. Ford benefited from redesigned commercial pickup trucks, each of which generate \$10,000 in pretax profit, and from cuts in global automotive costs. Revenue fell 5.1 percent, to \$37.9 billion.
- **Euron Corp.** and **RealNetworks Inc.** formed an alliance to deliver high-quality video to Internet providers and companies over Euron's fiber-optic network. Financial terms were not disclosed.
- **Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc.**'s fourth-quarter net income fell 32 percent, to \$68.7 million, as revenue from trading fell in a quarter marked by Russia's default and currency devaluation in August.
- **UAL Corp.**, the world's largest airline company, said fourth-quarter profit before charges fell 18 percent, to \$189 million, as business travelers on its United Airlines switched to lower-priced tickets and as sales in Asia fell. The company also confirmed its interest in a possible acquisition of America West Airlines, the ninth-largest U.S. airline.
- **Exxon Corp.**, the largest U.S. oil company, said fourth-quarter earnings fell 30 percent, to \$1.53 billion, as crude-oil prices fell to historic lows and margins from selling fuel and chemicals sagged. Revenue fell 15 percent, to \$29.7 billion.
- **Lucent Technologies Inc.**, the world's largest phone-equipment maker, said profit in the financial first quarter rose a better-than-expected 26 percent, to \$1.41 billion, on strong sales of switching systems and computer chips. Sales rose 6 percent, to \$9.2 billion.
- **Mobil Corp.** pulled out of talks with Shell Australia Ltd. aimed at combining their four Australian refineries, saying it was taking too long to win regulatory approval and could disrupt its plan to merge with Exxon Corp. The venture would have held two refineries near Melbourne, one near Adelaide and another outside Sydney.

Barton Biggs Shakes Up Internet Stocks

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Thursday, led by technology issues, after an influential Wall Street analyst said the "bubble" in those stocks was close to an end.

Barton Biggs, an analyst with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, predicted that the spectacular rally in Internet stocks, which has pulled the broader market higher in the past several weeks, "will come to a very bad end."

Other analysts said Mr. Biggs' comments were neither surprising nor new but that Internet stock prices had gone so high that price levels were being viewed as an excuse to get out of the shares.

"When you get something this frothy, people definitely look for a reason to sell," said Arthur Hogan, chief analyst at J.P. Morgan & Co. The Nasdaq composite index, where many Internet and other tech-

nology stocks are listed, fell 70.60 points to close at 2,344.89. The index set record highs in the previous two sessions.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 71.83 points lower at 9,264.08, and the Standard & Poor's

U.S. STOCKS

500 index finished 21.45 points lower at 1,235.17. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by a 2-to-1 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

A setback in the Brazilian stock market also weighed on sentiment, analysts said.

"At these valuations, when there's something uncertain on the horizon it's not unusual for stocks to pull back," said James Tiller, a money manager at Dean Investment Associates.

Among the big Internet stocks to

fall was Amazon.com, which lost 6% to 106.94, and Yahoo!, which fell 2% to 26.50. Excite fell 10.15/16 to 85.11/16, and eBay lost 30.34 to 183.

While Amazon and Yahoo! have posted profits, many other Internet companies are still far from solid financial results. Analysts also said the fledgling Web companies lacked enough history or other data to interest long-term investors.

"Earnings are starting to come out, and we're starting to see a lot of 'We've already had the froth and champagne, which carried us to this point, and now it's going to be hard for earnings to keep growing at such a pace.'"

Sun Microsystems was the most active U.S. stock, falling 6% to \$99 on worries that the computer maker might have trouble meeting optimistic second-quarter earnings forecasts because it had switched to a

new system for handling its orders, manufacturing and distribution.

Lucent fell 8 9/16 to 106.15/16 on concern that revenue growth was slowing at the world's largest telephone-equipment maker. Lucent reported strong first-quarter earnings, but its revenue fell short of analysts' expectations. Lucent blamed a paperwork delay in reporting \$800 million in deliveries for the shortfall.

Lyco's bucked the downturn in Internet stocks, rising 12 1/2 to 117 on reports that the on-line service was negotiating with several companies about a strategic partnership.

Some of the money being pulled out of the stock market moved into Treasury bonds, where the price of the benchmark 30-year issue rose 21 3/4 to 101 26/32. The yield fell to 5.13 percent from 5.14 percent Wednesday.

(AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Trade Rift Gives a Lift To Dollar

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Thursday on concern that trade tensions between Japan and the United States would result in official steps to weaken the Japanese currency.

The U.S. trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, said in a speech Thursday that "trade tensions in our relationship are rising," adding that "from rice and flat glass to autos and insurance, Japan faces renewed friction and mistrust."

The Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit swelled to \$15.5 billion in November from a revised \$13.6 billion in October. While the deficit with

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Japan narrowed to \$5.78 billion in November from \$5.97 billion in October, U.S. officials said this did not appear to be the start of any longer-term trend.

The strong yen has hurt Japanese exports, and the Bank of Japan suggested that intervention might be necessary to try to bring the currency down against the dollar.

"There may be a time when we have to sell the yen if the market movement becomes violent," said Masaru Hayami, the central bank's governor.

Japan's central bank sold yen for dollars this month, the first time in three years it had stepped into the market to weaken the yen.

The dollar rose to 113.700 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 112.955 yen Wednesday.

The dollar slipped against the pound and the Swiss franc in response to a renewed downturn in Brazilian financial markets. The pound rose to \$1.6515 from \$1.6458.

The dollar fell to 1.3853 Swiss francs from 1.3880 francs. It was unchanged against the euro, which slipped to \$1.1602 from \$1.1612.

The slide in the Brazilian real and stock market renewed fears about a wider economic crisis in Latin America.

Dealers said that comments from George Soros, a U.S.-based financier, that developed economies were facing an "asset bubble" renewed fears about the lofty level of U.S. stock prices.

Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said Wednesday that the rally in the U.S. stock markets may be difficult to sustain.

(Bridge News, AFP)

TAIPEI: Foreign Minister Warns of Rising Trade-War Risk

Continued from Page 11

ket had made it clear that the economic crisis is far from over.

"We were looking at a situation perhaps with a slightly more optimistic view toward the end of last year," Mr. Hu said. "Now I think it may be presumptuous and premature to think that we are all getting out of it."

Taiwan's stock market and currency suffered relatively little from Asia's economic crisis, thanks to limited exposure to global capital markets and a highly competitive industrial base of small companies exporting to the United States.

But since late last year, a sharp

drop in Taiwan stocks has been accompanied by the revelation of new weaknesses in the property and banking sectors.

A devaluation of the Chinese yuan remains a real and major worry, Mr. Hu said, adding that Taiwan has prepared contingency plans to minimize the fallout in vulnerable industries and the stock market.

"We hope they will be able to hold their currency value, but there is a certain degree of uncertainty," he said of the Beijing leadership.

Mr. Hu strongly condemned the recent political crackdown in China and said it had demonstrated once again how easily Beijing could mislead the outside world.

"They show that on the one hand they can sign all the necessary conventions on human rights and at the same time violate all the articles and spirits of the conventions."

Despite the danger of upsetting Beijing on the eve of long-suspended cross-strait negotiations, Mr. Hu said Taiwan would continue actively seeking diplomatic recognition as a sovereign state and welcome visits by democracy advocates exiled by China.

"People try to tell us that you shouldn't do this because you make them unhappy," he said. "The world has enough people trying to please, placate or not irritate the Chinese Communists. We shouldn't."

STOCKS: Political and Financial Differences Over Plan

Continued from Page 11

Congress would meddle, for example steering federal dollars into environmentally friendly companies rather than tobacco companies, which were a target of Mr. Clinton's speech Tuesday.

Chairman Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Board added his weight to the critics Wednesday. "I do not believe that it is politically feasible to insulate such huge funds from government direction," he told the House Ways and Means Committee. "I am fearful that we would use those assets in a way that would create a lower rate of return for Social Security recipients."

Michael Boskin, chief economist under President George Bush, shares Mr. Greenspan's concern and rejects the Clinton plan as "politically naive."

"Congress will simply not stand by and let huge surpluses accumulate without spending them," he said. "Congress is much less likely to tamper with private accounts."

Economists say that investing Social Security revenue in stocks would not in itself affect the saving rate in the United States or raise future living standards. It would merely shuffle stock out of accounts of private investors and into a public account.

But, as a recent report from the National Association of Social In-

urance pointed out, the shuffle would still have an important impact. Wealthy families, the report observes, need not care if the public trust fund invests their payroll contributions in stocks, because they can invest their private savings in stocks, reaping the high rate of return that stocks have historically yielded.

Most families, however, save and invest very little. The only way their retirement income can reflect the value of investing in stocks is if the government does the investing for them. Mr. Clinton's proposal to invest some of the trust fund in stocks would bring the benefit of stock investing to a larger number of American families.

Europe Helps Ameritech Profit

Agence France-Presse

CHICAGO — Ameritech Corp. posted record fourth-quarter and full-year earnings Thursday, fueled by the rapid growth of the U.S. telecommunications giant's data services and the strong performance of its European operations.

The company, which is to be combined with SBC Communications Inc. in a \$62 billion stock swap, said fourth-quarter net profit grew 25 percent from a year earlier, to \$762 million. Revenue advanced 7.1 percent to \$4.44 billion.

"Ameritech starts 1999 with outstanding momentum," said its chairman and chief executive officer, Richard Notebaert. "Customer demand is robust across the board, and we're setting a fast pace in our industry's high-potential growth segments. More than one-fourth of our earnings growth came from progress at our European partnerships."

Last month, shareholders of Ameritech and SBC approved the companies' agreement to form what would be the biggest U.S. telephone company, subject to approval from federal regulators. SBC, meanwhile, reported net profit of \$756 million in the fourth quarter, up 17.8 percent.

INTEREST RATES

Thursday, Jan. 21

Government Debt		3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Bid	Ask	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
France	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Germany	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Italy	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Japan	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Spain	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
United States	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Yield	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Price	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50

Source: Bloomberg.

Money Market Rates

U.S. dollars		Today	Prev	3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Discount rate	4%	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Federal funds	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
90-day T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
180-day T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
1-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
2-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
3-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
10-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
30-year T-bill	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Source: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Libor Rates

U.S. dollars		3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Bid	Ask	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
France	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Germany	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Italy	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Japan	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Spain	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
United States	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Yield	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Price	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50

Source: Reuters.

Forward Rates

U.S. dollars		3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Bid	Ask	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
France	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Germany	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Italy	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Japan	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Spain	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
United States	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Yield	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Price	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50

Source: Associated Press.

Gold Fixings

U.S. dollars per ounce		Today	Prev	3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Bid	Ask	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
France	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Germany	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Italy	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Japan	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Spain	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
United States	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Yield	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10
Price	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10	287.10

Source: Reuters.

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U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, Jan. 21

Indexes		High	Low	Close	Change
Dow Jones	9,264.08	9,264.08	9,264.08	9,264.08	-71.83
S&P 500	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	-21.45
Nasdaq	2,344.89	2,344.89	2,344.89	2,344.89	-70.60
NYSE	9,264.08	9,264.08	9,264.08	9,264.08	-71.83
AMEX	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	-21.45

	High	Low	Close	4 P.M.	7:30 Basis II	8:00 Basis II	9:00 Basis II	9:30 Basis II
Industrials	1542.21	1513.31	1518.17	1490.43	26927	944	24	274
Transport	675.04	657.41	665.82	666.94	16912	181	162	170
Utilities	250.98	246.26	249.54	251.44	76626	6774	6494	644
Finance	133.23	130.35	132.21	130.30	25620	2794	2454	244
S&P 500	1274.07	1251.54	1256.62	1235.17	73803	36	349	344
					71614	3134	3094	314
					71192	19	174	184
					68884	10	94	94

EUROPE

Slump in Exports Takes Toll on German Growth

BONN — The German economy may have shrunk in the last quarter of 1998, as a rise in domestic demand failed to offset a slump in exports to Southeast Asia and Russia, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The "weak phase" in the German economy is probably just a "dent in growth" limited to the last quarter of 1998 and the first quarter of 1999, the ministry said in its monthly report. The rest of 1999 should see renewed expansion as domestic consumption and construction activity gather pace, the report said. The government expects growth of 2 percent in 1999.

The Bundesbank echoed the Finance Ministry's opinion that growth slowed in the fourth quarter, but it was less optimistic about growth prospects for this year.

The central bank said the economy "markedly lost momentum" at the end of 1998. "The manufacturing industry was particularly affected" by the slowdown, it added.

The economic slowdown also was reflected in the Ifo Institute for Economic Research's business confidence index, which showed that con-

fidence in Western Germany declined in December for a seventh straight month. Exporters said they were skeptical that domestic demand would compensate for a decrease in international orders.

"This is a confirmation that we are clearly in a downward trend for the industrial sector," said Alexander Kockerbeck, economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in Frankfurt. "The weakness is once again coming from foreign demand, and we expect that the Asian fallout will feed more and more through into the figures."

Analysts also said that consumer spending, buoyant throughout 1998, might lose steam and fail to make up for industrial weakness.

They said the weak Ifo survey added to a string of bearish data that should give the European Central Bank ammunition to cut interest rates to help stimulate growth.

The new central bank's board decided to keep interest rates unchanged after its board meeting Thursday, but it is widely expected to cut its 3 percent refinancing rate this quarter, economists said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Sears Agrees To New Offer

LONDON — Sears PLC said Thursday it had agreed to an increased cash takeover offer from January Investments Ltd., led by the Barclay family and an entrepreneur, Philip Green.

Sears accepted the offer, which values the British retailer at £548 million (\$901.8 million), or 359 pence a share, after shunning the group's hostile offer of 340 pence a share.

The accord will almost certainly lead to the breakup of Sears, which owns the Free-mans mail-order business and the Miss Selfridge and Warehouse chains of women's clothing outlets.

The retailer's largest shareholder, Phillips & Drew Fund Management Ltd., had already accepted the buyer's earlier bid. Sears said the new offer had the unanimous support of its board.

Sears has shed more than 25 businesses over five years, including its footwear division, once the British market leader.

Sears shares closed in London at 354.5 pence, up 7.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Volkswagen Chairman Stays Bullish on Brazil

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Ferdinand Piech, chairman of the board of Volkswagen AG, said Thursday that he was optimistic about the future of Brazil.

He said Brazil's decision to allow its currency to float freely, which resulted in a sharp devaluation, opened up new export possibilities for Volkswagen, which is the automobile market leader in South America.

The exchange rate is so good we can earn money exporting cars to the European Union from Brazil," Mr. Piech said. He had just returned from opening a new Brazilian auto plant. "We see a good future. We had no losses there last year."

Mr. Piech, making his inaugural speech as president of the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, said that after a "spectacular year" the European car market is showing "a high level of saturation."

"This means that Europe, especially in the large national markets, now has only a moderate growth potential in terms of new car registrations," he said. "The growth rates of the past are getting ever harder to achieve."

Mr. Piech said the introduction of the European single currency would place new pressures on car manufacturers because it shows the discrepancies in prices among countries and consumers were free to buy where the prices were lowest.

Mr. Piech said Volkswagen would seek to weather the economic crisis in Brazil by putting its 7,000 workers on four-day weeks, as it did in Germany in 1993, as a way of cutting labor costs without dismissing employees. "If you fire people, you fire your customers," he said. "Those who are fired will never buy a Volkswagen again."

Noting that competitive pressure had reduced the number of independent car manufacturers from 52 to 17 since the mid-1960s, Mr. Piech said pressures to merge would continue. But he said there was still room for small companies like Porsche AG, as well as giants like General Motors Corp., provided they could dominate specific sectors.

He appealed to the European Commission, the EU's main policy body, not to burden the auto industry with fresh demands for clean air and recycling standards. The industry already has made enormous investments, he said, and it is now up to the oil industry to develop environment-friendly gasoline and diesel fuels.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE-100 Index	Paris CAC 40
6000	6100	4400
5500	5500	3800
5000	5000	3200
4500	4500	2600
4000	4000	2000
3500	3500	1400
3000	3000	800
2500	2500	200
2000	2000	
1500	1500	
1000	1000	
500	500	
0	0	
AS	OND	J
1998	1998	1998
Exchange Index	Index	Index
Amsterdam AEX	2,441.63	3,481.12
Brussels BEL-20	3,441.63	3,481.12
Frankfurt DAX	5,156.67	5,143.06
Copenhagen Stock Index	540.23	541.05
Helsinki HEX Generali	5,198.52	6,288.06
Oslo OBX	322.98	328.78
London FTSE 100	6,022.36	6,105.60
Madrid Stock Exchange	876.81	880.11
Nairobi NSE	2,332.1	2,403.8
Paris CAC 40	4,154.03	4,190.01
Stockholm SK-15	4,076.55	4,072.02
Zurich ATX	1,057.84	1,056.78
Zurich SPI	4,488.15	4,577.41

Very briefly:

- TFI, the French television station, has acquired 8.98 percent of the shares and 7.61 percent of the voting rights in the filmmaker and cinema operator Pathe SA, which owns 20 percent of CanalSatellite, the digital satellite service of the French pay TV group Canal Plus SA and an arch-rival to TFI's Television par Satellite service, known as TPS.
- Lloyd's of London's chief executive, Ron Sandler, 46, will resign this summer and be replaced by Nick Prettejohn, 38.
- Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries PLC raised its bid for the rival pub operator Marston, Thompson & Evershed PLC to £289.3 million (\$476.6 million) from £262 million.
- Investor AB's chairman, Percy Barneveldt, is trying to persuade General Motors Corp. to buy Volvo AB's car division and merge it with Saab Automobile AB, which Investor owns jointly with GM, according to the Swedish business newspaper Dagens Industri.

Laura Ashley Names a Chief Executive — Its 7th Since 1990

LONDON — Laura Ashley Holdings PLC, a clothing and home-furnishings retailer known as much for its sliding sales as for its floral prints, said Thursday that Victoria Egan had resigned as chief executive after being on the job for just five months.

She will be succeeded by Kwan

Cheong Ng, a Malaysian businessman. Ms. Egan's departure, which she said was for personal reasons, opened the way for the seventh chief executive to run the troubled retailer since 1990.

The new chief is also managing director of Malaysian United Industries Bhd., the biggest shareholder in Laura Ashley since taking a 40 percent stake in the company last April.

The company's shares fell 0.5 pence to 12 pence (19.7 cents), an all-time low.

The retailer, whose shares have dropped 93 percent in the past two years, is cutting costs and trying to sell more goods at full price, although its Christmas sales fell 14 percent. It returned to its traditional styles after failing to lure shoppers with more contemporary designs.

The company also named Pat Robertson, the U.S. television evangelist, as a nonexecutive director.

The company said Mr. Robertson had been chosen for his knowledge of the North American market.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

WORLD STOCK MARKETS				High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Thursday, Jan. 21															
Prices in local currencies															
In euros for E.M.U. countries.															
Tollers															
Amsterdam															
AEX Index															
Previous: 5331.8															
ABN AMRO	17.90	17.25	17.40	17.25											
Alcoa	26.30	26.30	26.30	26.30											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
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Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											
Alkermes	34.85	32.30	32.60	32.60											

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

12 Month ^{Stc} Du Yld PF 100s High Low Latest Crops

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	农民	山东烟台	
李德胜	男	35	河北	工人	河北保定	
张德胜	男	55	河南	商人	河南郑州	
赵德胜	男	25	江苏	学生	江苏南京	
刘德胜	男	65	浙江	医生	浙江杭州	
陈德胜	男	40	安徽	教师	安徽合肥	
周德胜	男	30	江西	记者	江西九江	
吴德胜	男	50	福建	工程师	福建福州	
孙德胜	男	20	广东	学生	广东广州	
郑德胜	男	60	广西	农民	广西桂林	
冯德胜	男	40	湖南	工人	湖南长沙	
马德胜	男	30	湖北	商人	湖北武汉	
朱德胜	男	50	四川	学生	四川成都	
胡德胜	男	20	云南	教师	云南昆明	
李德胜	男	60	贵州	医生	贵州贵阳	
张德胜	男	40	陕西	记者	陕西西安	
赵德胜	男	30	甘肃	工程师	甘肃兰州	
刘德胜	男	50	宁夏	学生	宁夏银川	
陈德胜	男	20	青海	农民	青海西宁	
周德胜	男	60	新疆	工人	新疆乌鲁木齐	
吴德胜	男	40	内蒙古	商人	内蒙古呼和浩特	
孙德胜	男	30	吉林	学生	吉林长春	
郑德胜	男	50	辽宁	教师	辽宁沈阳	
冯德胜	男	20	黑龙江	医生	黑龙江哈尔滨	
马德胜	男	60	河北	记者	河北保定	
朱德胜	男	40	山东	工程师	山东烟台	
胡德胜	男	30	河南	学生	河南郑州	
李德胜	男	50	江苏	农民	江苏南京	
张德胜	男	20	浙江	工人	浙江杭州	
赵德胜	男	60	安徽	商人	安徽合肥	
刘德胜	男	40	江西	学生	江西九江	
陈德胜	男	30	福建	教师	福建福州	
周德胜	男	50	广东	医生	广东广州	
吴德胜	男	20	广西	记者	广西桂林	
孙德胜	男	60	湖南	工程师	湖南长沙	
郑德胜	男	40	湖北	学生	湖北武汉	
冯德胜	男	30	四川	农民	四川成都	
马德胜	男	50	云南	工人	云南昆明	
朱德胜	男	20	贵州	商人	贵州贵阳	
胡德胜	男	60	陕西	学生	陕西西安	
李德胜	男	40	甘肃	教师	甘肃兰州	
张德胜	男	30	宁夏	医生	宁夏银川	
赵德胜	男	50	青海	记者	青海西宁	
刘德胜	男	20	新疆	工程师	新疆乌鲁木齐	
陈德胜	男	60	内蒙古	学生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
周德胜	男	40	吉林	农民	吉林长春	
吴德胜	男	30	辽宁	工人	辽宁沈阳	
孙德胜	男	50	黑龙江	商人	黑龙江哈尔滨	
郑德胜	男	20	河北	学生	河北保定	
冯德胜	男	60	山东	教师	山东烟台	
马德胜	男	40	河南	医生	河南郑州	
朱德胜	男	30	江苏	记者	江苏南京	
胡德胜	男	50	浙江	工程师	浙江杭州	
李德胜	男	20	安徽	学生	安徽合肥	
张德胜	男	60	江西	农民	江西九江	
赵德胜	男	40	福建	工人	福建福州	
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冯德胜	男	50	贵州	学生	贵州贵阳	
马德胜	男	20	陕西	农民	陕西西安	
朱德胜	男	60	甘肃	工人	甘肃兰州	
胡德胜	男	40	宁夏	商人	宁夏银川	
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张德胜	男	50	新疆	教师	新疆乌鲁木齐	
赵德胜	男	20	内蒙古	医生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
刘德胜	男					

NAME	AGE	SEX	DATE	TIME	PLACE	REMARKS
1. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
2. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
3. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
4. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
5. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
6. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
7. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
8. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
9. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
10. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
11. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
12. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
13. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
14. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
15. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
16. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
17. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
18. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
19. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
20. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
21. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
22. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
23. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
24. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
25. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
26. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
27. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
28. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
29. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
30. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
31. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
32. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
33. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
34. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
35. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
36. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
37. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
38. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
39. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
40. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
41. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
42. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
43. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
44. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
45. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
46. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
47. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
48. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
49. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
50. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
51. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
52. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
53. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
54. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
55. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
56. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
57. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
58. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
59. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
60. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
61. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
62. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
63. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
64. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
65. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10
66. J. H. Smith	25	M	1912	10	10	10

Continued on Page 15

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Case No.	Case Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Address	Admission Date	Discharge Date	Discharge Status	Remarks
1	John Doe	45	M	Teacher	123 Main St, Springfield, IL	10/15/2023	10/22/2023	Discharged	Admitted for pneumonia, treated with antibiotics and oxygen. Discharged on oral antibiotics.
2	Jane Smith	62	F	Retired	456 Oak Ave, Chicago, IL	10/18/2023	10/25/2023	Discharged	Admitted for heart failure, managed with diuretics and beta-blockers. Discharged on home medications.
3	Robert Johnson	38	M	Software Engineer	789 Pine St, New York, NY	10/20/2023	10/28/2023	Discharged	Admitted for anxiety disorder, received counseling and medication. Discharged on follow-up.
4	Emily White	28	F	Student	321 Elm St, Los Angeles, CA	10/22/2023	10/30/2023	Discharged	Admitted for viral infection, supportive care provided. Discharged with rest and fluids.
5	Michael Brown	55	M	Construction Worker	654 Maple St, Houston, TX	10/25/2023	11/02/2023	Discharged	Admitted for deep vein thrombosis, treated with anticoagulants. Discharged on blood thinners.
6	Sarah Green	70	F	Homemaker	987 Cedar St, Phoenix, AZ	10/28/2023	11/05/2023	Discharged	Admitted for chronic kidney disease, managed with dialysis and diet. Discharged on dialysis schedule.
7	David Lee	42	M	Business Owner	147 Birch St, San Francisco, CA	10/30/2023	11/08/2023	Discharged	Admitted for liver disease, received medical management. Discharged on liver-protective medications.
8	Lisa King	35	F	Marketing Executive	258 Walnut St, Miami, FL	11/01/2023	11/09/2023	Discharged	Admitted for allergic reaction, treated with antihistamines and steroids. Discharged on allergy management plan.
9	James Wilson	68	M	Retired	369 Spruce St, Seattle, WA	11/03/2023	11/10/2023	Discharged	Admitted for prostate issues, managed with medical treatment. Discharged on prostate medications.
10	Amanda Taylor	25	F	Graphic Designer	470 Ash St, Portland, OR	11/05/2023	11/12/2023	Discharged	Admitted for skin condition, treated with topical treatments. Discharged on skin care regimen.

[illegible]

一、本會為維護會員權益，特訂定本會章程，凡加入本會者，均須遵守。
 二、本會之宗旨，在於促進會員間之交流與合作，共同發展。
 三、本會之組織，由會員大會、理事會及監事會組成。
 四、本會之經費，由會員繳納會費及社會捐助。
 五、本會之辦事處設於本市中正路一二三號。
 六、本會之秘書長為張三，副秘書長為李四。
 七、本會之財務長為王五，副財務長為趙六。
 八、本會之法律顧問為陳七。
 九、本會之其他事項，均依照本會章程辦理。
 十、本會之章程，自公布之日起施行。

Stock	High	Low	Label	Change
IBM	124 1/2	124 1/4		+ 1/4
GE	34 1/2	34 1/4		+ 1/4
AT&T	37 1/2	37 1/4		+ 1/4
Westinghouse	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
General Electric	34 1/2	34 1/4		+ 1/4
Radio Shack	12 1/2	12 1/4		+ 1/4
Johnson & Johnson	26 1/2	26 1/4		+ 1/4
Merck & Co.	44 1/2	44 1/4		+ 1/4
Pfizer	28 1/2	28 1/4		+ 1/4
Amgen	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
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Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
Novartis	36 1/2	36 1/4		+ 1/4
Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
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Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
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Roche	40 1/2	40 1/4		+ 1/4
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Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4
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Sandoz	24 1/2	24 1/4		+ 1/4
Novo Nordisk	32 1/2	32 1/4		+ 1/4

[illegible][illegible]

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Jan.	High	Low	Last	Change
ABC	100	105	102	103	+3
DEF	200	210	205	208	+8
GHI	150	155	152	153	+5
JKL	300	310	305	308	+10
MNO	120	125	122	123	+7
PQR	180	185	182	183	+4
STU	250	260	255	258	+12
VWX	110	115	112	113	+6
YZA	160	165	162	163	+9
BCD	220	230	225	228	+11
EFG	130	135	132	133	+8
HIJ	190	195	192	193	+5
KLM	270	280	275	278	+13
NOP	100	105	102	103	+4
QRS	170	175	172	173	+7
TUV	240	250	245	248	+10
WXY	110	115	112	113	+6
ZAB	160	165	162	163	+9
CCO	220	230	225	228	+11
DDD	130	135	132	133	+8
EEE	190	195	192	193	+5
FFF	270	280	275	278	+13
GGG	100	105	102	103	+4
HHH	170	175	172	173	+7
III	240	250	245	248	+10
JJJ	110	115	112	113	+6
KKK	160	165	162	163	+9
LLL	220	230	225	228	+11
MMM	130	135	132	133	+8
NNN	190	195	192	193	+5
OOO	270	280	275	278	+13
PPP	100	105	102	103	+4
QQQ	170	175	172	173	+7
RRR	240	250	245	248	+10
SSS	110	115	112	113	+6
TTT	160	165	162	163	+9
UUU	220	230	225	228	+11
VVV	130	135	132	133	+8
WWW	190	195	192	193	+5
XXX	270	280	275	278	+13
YYY	100	105	102	103	+4
ZZZ	170	175	172	173	+7
AAA	240	250	245	248	+10
BBB	110	115	112	113	+6
CCC	160	165	162	163	+9
DDD	220	230	225	228	+11
EEE	130	135	132	133	+8
FFF	190	195	192	193	+5
GGG	270	280	275	278	+13
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WWW	270	280	275	278	+13
XXX	100	105	102	103	+4
YYY	170	175	172	173	+7
ZZZ	240	250	245	248	+10
AAA	110	115	112	113	+6
BBB	160	165	162	163	+9
CCC	220	230	225	228	+11

[illegible]

Low	Latent	Days	Pact	Sales	High	Low	Latent
174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174
175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
176	176	176	176	176	176	176	176
177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177
178	178	178	178	178	178	178	178
179	179	179	179	179	179	179	179
180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
181	181	181	181	181	181	181	181
182	182	182	182	182	182	182	182
183	183	183	183	183	183	183	183
184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184
185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185
186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186
187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187
188	188	188	188	188	188	188	188
189	189	189	189	189	189	189	189
190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190
191	191	191	191	191	191	191	191
192	192	192	192	192	192	192	192
193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193
194	194	194	194	194	194	194	194
195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195
196	196	196	196	196	196	196	196
197	197	197	197	197	197	197	197
198	198	198	198	198	198	198	198
199	199	199	199	199	199	199	199
200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

7/1	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Unsett	Ch
100	100.00	99.00	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101	101.00	100.00	101	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
102	102.00	101.00	102	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
103	103.00	102.00	103	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
104	104.00	103.00	104	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
105	105.00	104.00	105	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
106	106.00	105.00	106	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
107	107.00	106.00	107	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
108	108.00	107.00	108	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
109	109.00	108.00	109	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110	110.00	109.00	110	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
111	111.00	110.00	111	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
112	112.00	111.00	112	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
113	113.00	112.00	113	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
114	114.00	113.00	114	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
115	115.00	114.00	115	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
116	116.00	115.00	116	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
117	117.00	116.00	117	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
118	118.00	117.00	118	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
119	119.00	118.00	119	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120	120.00	119.00	120	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
121	121.00	120.00	121	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
122	122.00	121.00	122	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
123	123.00	122.00	123	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
124	124.00	123.00	124	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
125	125.00	124.00	125	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
126	126.00	125.00	126	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
127	127.00	126.00	127	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
128	128.00	127.00	128	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
129	129.00	128.00	129	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
130	130.00	129.00	130	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
131	131.00	130.00	131	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
132	132.00	131.00	132	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
133	133.00	132.00	133	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
134	134.00	133.00	134	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
135	135.00	134.00	135	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
136	136.00	135.00	136	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
137	137.00	136.00	137	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
138	138.00	137.00	138	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
139	139.00	138.00	139	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
140	140.00	139.00	140	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
141	141.00	140.00	141	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
142	142.00	141.00	142	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
143	143.00	142.00	143	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
144	144.00	143.00	144	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
145	145.00	144.00	145	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
146	146.00	145.00	146	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
147	147.00	146.00	147	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148	148.00	147.00	148	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
149	149.00	148.00	149	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
150	150.00	149.00	150	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
151	151.00	150.00	151	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
152	152.00	151.00	152	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
153	153.00	152.00	153	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
154	154.00	153.00	154	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
155	155.00	154.00	155	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
156	156.00	155.00	156	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
157	157.00	156.00	157	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
158	158.00	157.00	158	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
159	159.00	158.00	159	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
160	160.00	159.00	160	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
161	161.00	160.00	161	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
162	162.00	161.00	162	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
163	163.00	162.00	163	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
164	164.00	163.00	164	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
165	165.00	164.00	165	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
166	166.00	165.00	166	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
167	167.00	166.00	167	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
168	168.00	167.00	168	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
169	169.00	168.00	169	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
170	170.00	169.00	170	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
171	171.00	170.00	171	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
172	172.00	171.00	172	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
173	173.00	172.00	173	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
174	174.00	173.00	174	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
175	175.00	174.00	175	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
176	176.00	175.00	176	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
177	177.00	176.00	177	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
178	178.00	177.00	178	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
179	179.00	178.00	179	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
180	180.00	179.00	180	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
181	181.00	180.00	181	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
182	182.00	181.00	182	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
183	183.00	182.00	183	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
184	184.00	183.00	184	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
185	185.00	184.00	185	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
186	186.00	185.00	186	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
187	187.00	186.00	187	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
188	188.00	187.00	188	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
189	189.00	188.00	189	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
190	190.00	189.00	190	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
191	191.00	190.00	191	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
192	192.00	191.00	192	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
193	193.00	192.00	193	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
194	194.00	193.00	194	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
195	195.00	194.00	195	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
196	196.00	195.00	196	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
197	197.00	196.00	197	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
198	198.00	197.00	198	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
199	199.00	198.00	199	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
200	200.00	199.00	200	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
201	201.00	200.00	201	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
202	202.00	201.00	202	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
203	203.00	202.00	203	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
204	204.00	203.00	204	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
205	205.00	204.00	205	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
206	206.00	205.00	206	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
207	207.00	206.00	207	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

12 Month	High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100% High	Low	Low/Current
224	150	140	Valeport	.40	13	224	130	56%
225	150	140	Valeport	.40	13	224	130	56%
226	150	140	Valeport	.40	13	224	130	56%
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393	150	140	Valeport	.40	13	224	130	56%
394	150	140	Valeport	.40	13	224	130	56%

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Would Bargain-Hunting Buffett Buy Berkshire Shares Now?

By Robert D. Hershey Jr.
New York Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Warren Buffett, the investment sage, has often said he welcomes market declines because they put some good-quality merchandise "on sale," allowing him to shop for bargains.

These days, however, it is the price of Mr. Buffett's Class B shares, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., that has been reduced, and some investors are wondering why.

It is not that they think Mr. Buffett, 68, has lost his touch. But how to explain the fact that Berkshire Class B shares have lost nearly 8 percent of their value, to \$64,500 in early trading Thursday, in just the first 20 days of the year and 22 percent from their peak of \$84,000 reached last June 22?

Berkshire's Class B shares, which cost much less than the Class A shares, have fallen at a similar pace, trading at \$2,088.

Not to worry, say those who follow Berkshire most closely. Yes, two of its biggest holdings, Coca-Cola Co. and Gillette Co., have suffered from economic turmoil abroad. But this is the wrong way to look at Berkshire, according to Robert Hagstrom, portfolio manager for Legg Mason Focus Trust and a Buffett aficionado.

Berkshire is often misperceived by

casual investors, including the arbitrageurs who swarm to merger deals, as little more than its huge portfolio of publicly traded stocks, concentrated at last report, which means the 1997 annual report — in eight issues. In addition to Coca-Cola and Gillette, those are American Express Co., Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., Wells Fargo & Co., Walt Disney Co., Citigroup and Washington Post Co.

"It is not correct to analyze a closed-end investment company," said Mr. Hagstrom, whose fund has 22 percent of its assets invested in Berkshire. The main business of Berkshire is in property and casualty insurance; the "float" generated by these subsidiaries, including Geico Corp., the seventh-biggest U.S. auto insurer, is then invested elsewhere — in stocks and directly into other Berkshire operating businesses.

Investors say Berkshire's relative weakness is mostly a temporary result of its \$22 billion acquisition, announced last summer, of General Re Corp., a giant reinsurance company.

As it turned out, General Re stockholders did not jump at the chance to become Mr. Buffett's investment partners by exchanging their shares for those of Berkshire. That has led to some of the weakness in Berkshire shares.

Thomas Russo, a partner at Gardner Investments in Lancaster, Penn-

sylvania, which has long held sizable Berkshire stakes, said: "The real impact is from the massive rotation of owners. You're now asking insurance investors to own a company that has a lot of other things."

Those things include a portfolio of stocks carrying high price/earnings multiples and an increasing stable of

other interests ranging from candy and furniture companies to, more recently, those involved in pilot training and executive jets.

In Mr. Russo's view, the pressure on the stock from the exodus of these owners is temporary.

A Wall Street analyst who spoke on condition of anonymity, however, estimated that only about one-third of General Re's holders would wind up keeping Berkshire stock.

Disenchantment spread when Standard & Poor's Corp. chose not to include Berkshire in its 500-stock index, the widely used benchmark whose components are "must" buys for index funds. A lack of liquidity was seen as the reason — expensive Berkshire shares do not trade much — though speculation persists that S&P may reconsider.

A spokesman for S&P declined to comment.

Another factor weighing on Berkshire's price is softness in the world reinsurance market as overcapacity forces down rates.

But Mr. Hagstrom, Mr. Russo and others say they regard the acquisition of General Re as nothing short of a coup. General Re's huge size figures to add flexibility to Berkshire's insurance op-

erations as well as to throw off huge amounts of cash that can be invested.

And Geico, a low-cost insurer that flirted with bankruptcy in the 1970s, is thriving as never before. Alice Schroeder, a PaineWebber analyst, forecasts rapid growth for Geico over the next five to seven years.

Martin Sosnoff, chief investment officer for Atlanta/Sosnoff Capital, has reservations about the stock, however. He argued recently in *Forbes* magazine that the collapse of world oil prices had significantly dimmed Berkshire's prospects by threatening political disruption for Third World producers and undermining those countries' ability to buy Coca-Cola.

Chris of Mr. Buffett do not agree: "Christopher Davis, portfolio manager of Davis New York Venture Fund and Selected American Shares, had long admired Mr. Buffett without owning Berkshire stock."

Now he counts himself a Berkshire bull and is keeping shares he has received in exchange for General Re stock he owned.

"He'll make more money for his shareholders in a bad market," Mr. Davis said. "In a high-flying market, he may have to bide his time."

Japanese Look To Europe for Higher Yields

TOYKO — For Japanese investors, home may be where the yield is. But these days, that is anywhere but home.

The country's benchmark Nikkei 225-stock average is bouncing along at about one-third of the peak it hit in 1989, discouraging investors from equities. Yields on government bonds have risen to nearly 2 percent but are still three percentage points below those on 10-year U.S. Treasury issues. And investors in U.S. bonds have to worry about the sturdiness of the dollar, which has fallen sharply against the yen. Japanese bank deposits pay a mere 0.1 percent.

So where are the Japanese, who have amassed one-third of the world's personal savings, going to store their money? In relatively attractive and currently vogue European markets, says Jardine Fleming Investment Trust and Advisory Co., the asset-management arm of the venerable British brokerage.

Armed with higher interest rates than Japan and a strong new currency, Europe is as appealing for investment as it is for touring, according to the company's Euro Bond Fund management team.

"Of course, you can't really call the euro countries high-yield countries," said Hironobu Hatano, who helps manage the fund. "But for the Japanese, any non-Japanese investment is high yield."

Jardine Fleming, historically strong in Asia, launched the Euro Bond Fund last Sept. 28 specifically for the Japanese market. The strategy, said Mr. Hatano, is to create a relatively low-risk fund but to generate above-market returns in a few small, discretionary investments.

While the fund measures its performance against the Salomon Brothers EMU Bond index, which is made up entirely of low-risk government bonds issued by the governments of the 11 countries in Europe's common currency, Jardine Fleming invests a little more than 3 percent in such other European countries as Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It also invests in corporate bonds, making it the only euro multisector bond fund sold in Japan.

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INGERSOLL-RAND COMPANY (CNR)

The undersigned announces that as from January 24, 1999 at Kato Associates N.V., Spuiboulevard 172, Amsterdam, div. r.p. no. 105 of the CDR, Ingersoll-Rand Company each rep. 5 shares will be payable with Euro 0.48 net (div. per rep. date 1/11/98; gross 0.50 psh.) after deduction of 15% USA = \$ 0.125 = Euro 0.09, DIV. psh. belonging to non-residents of the Netherlands will be paid after deduction of an additional 15% USA-tax (= \$ 0.125 = Euro 0.09) with Euro 0.37 net.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.
Amsterdam, 19 January 1999

Due to technical problems, we were unable to provide our regular fund quotations in the Thursday editions. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Very briefly:

• Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad, and some other top officials will meet foreign fund managers next week in Kuala Lumpur, said a representative of Salomon Smith Barney, which is arranging the meeting. It would be the second such meeting in a month organized by Salomon and comes amid optimism that Malaysia will soon ease some of the exchange control rules it imposed last September.

• China's stock-market listings rose to a total of 851 companies in 1998 from 745 the year before in spite of a prolonged slump in prices. Zhou Zhengqiang, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, said.

• Standard & Poor's Corp. said the collapse of several of China's trust and investment companies would not affect China's or Hong Kong's sovereign credit ratings.

• Merrill Lynch & Co., the world's largest brokerage, cut employee bonuses about 40 percent for last year, the South China Morning Post reported, quoting unidentified Merrill Lynch employees.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Alliance Wave Bolsters Japanese Bank Shares

TOKYO — Stocks in Japanese banks rose strongly Thursday as a series of alliances took shape and investors saw them as a sign that the country's battered banking industry might be turning around.

Japan's leading banks are struggling to survive while weighed down by bad loans that have increased since the collapse of the bubble economy in the early 1990s. The banks have been under official pressure to consolidate and take advantage of a government bailout program to clean up their balance sheets.

"Only a limited number of banks will be able to go on in their present form," Masaru Hayami, the governor of the Bank of Japan, said Thursday.

On Wednesday, Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Toyo Trust & Banking Co. said they would merge their trust units. On Tuesday, Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Toyo Trust & Banking Co. said they would merge.

Another potential alliance emerged Thursday, with a report that Daiwa Bank Ltd. was considering joining a tie-up between Asahi Bank Ltd. and Tokai Bank Ltd. to create a network of "super-regional banks" focusing on retail banking.

"We desperately need consolidation and restructuring in the banking sector," said Alex Muromcaw,

China Fights Yuan Rumors

BEIJING — China attempted Thursday to quash renewed rumors that it would devalue the yuan, which were partly blamed for sharp drops in the Hong Kong and South Korean stock markets.

"The Chinese government will continue to maintain the value of the renminbi yuan," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sun Yuxi, said in a news briefing.

Speculation that China may devalue the yuan has flared anew on regional financial markets after the float of the Brazilian real last week, but analysts said there was no basis for a devaluation, at least in the short term.

Mr. Sun said China was reforming its financial system "to enhance China's capability against external financial risks."

He added, "The reforms enable the financial regime to develop in a more steady and sound manner."

Rumors that China would devalue the yuan have helped send the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong down 2.6 percent Thursday. They also were blamed for a 5.1 percent drop in the benchmark composite index in Seoul.

Despite Job Losses, Singapore Stays Calm

SINGAPORE — Joblessness is rising in Singapore after more than a decade of virtually full employment, but, in contrast to some of its Asian neighbors, there is little sign here of incipient social or political unrest.

Analysts say this is because unemployment has not reached a painful level and because the government is helping some of those who lose their jobs to improve their skills and find work. Like its neighbors, Singapore is struggling to pull its economy out of the recession it plunged into after the regional financial crisis that began in mid-1997.

With more than 85 percent of Singapore's 3.1 million people living in public housing, the government is also offering help to those having trouble meeting their mortgage payments because of the economic downturn.

About 27,000 Singaporeans have lost their jobs, pushing the unemployment rate to around 4.5 percent, as companies cut staff or closed down because of high costs and declining regional demand. The figure is 35 percent higher than in the previous recession, a short one in 1985, when almost 20,000 people were laid off.

With elections still several years away, the government of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong is using the recession as an opportunity to cut business costs and make the work force more flexible and productive.

But it is warning Singaporeans that the current recession may be longer and more painful than the last.

Although the island state joined the list of East Asian countries showing "negative growth" when its economy shrank in the last two quarters of 1998, it still managed to report growth of 1.3 percent for the year as a whole after adjustment for inflation, according to official figures.

Emphasizing that the outlook is highly uncertain, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has forecast that economic output for this year will show something between a 1 per-

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng		Singapore Straits Times		Tokyo Nikkei 225	
11000	1550	17000			
10000	1400	16000			
9000	1250	15000			
8000	1100	14000			
7000	950	13000			
6000	800	12000			
A S O N D J	A S O N D J	A S O N D J			
1998	1998	1998			
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change	
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,048.57	10,314.91	-2.58	
Singapore	Straits Times	1,504.06	1,548.27	-2.86	
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,862.00	2,872.70	-0.72	
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	14,245.42	14,028.05	+1.55	
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	614.52	598.97	+2.60	
Bangkok	SET	385.75	394.85	-2.30	
Seoul	Composite Index	582.04	613.43	-5.12	
Taipei	Stock Market Index	6,332.20	6,510.71	+0.34	
Manila	PSE	2,142.80	2,146.39	-0.17	
Jakarta	Composite Index	Closed	402.40	-	
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,216.87	2,219.62	-0.12	
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,229.83	3,218.91	+3.45	
Source: Teletours					
Interbank and Herald Tribune					

Very briefly:

- Bangkok Bank PLC, Thai Farmers Bank PLC and Siam Commercial Bank PLC, among other Thai banks, reported big losses for 1998 as they made provisions for questionable loans. Bangkok Bank had a net loss of 49.5 billion baht (\$1.34 billion) after a 4.1 billion baht profit in 1997. Thai Farmers lost 39.88 billion baht after a profit of 800.78 million baht a year earlier, and Siam Commercial had a loss of 12.86 billion baht, against a profit of 3.19 billion baht in 1997.
- Chunghwa Telecom Co., the state telecommunications monopoly in Taiwan, will face competition in fixed-line telephone networks for the first time. The government will issue licenses for investors in such networks by the end of the year, and competing service could be started in 2001.
- Intel Corp. will invest \$100 million in Samsung Electronics Co. to expand cooperation on next-generation memory chips. Intel plans to buy \$100 million of convertible bonds exchangeable into about 1 percent of the shares of Samsung Electronics.
- HSBC Holdings PLC's stock fell after a report in The Wall Street Journal said the bank, the largest in Britain, would soon reveal "huge" losses from its exposure to Thailand. The shares fell 49 pence to £17.17 (\$28.26).
- Toyota Motor Corp. will enter Formula One racing, joining a Japanese rival, Honda Motor Co., which has announced its return to the sport. Toyota said it hoped to have a car in the race circuit by 2003.

Tan Gives Up Title of Chief at PAL

MANILA — In a major shake-up at Philippine Airlines on Thursday, the majority stockholder, Lucio Tan, relinquished management control, handing over the post to Luis Juan Virata, who became acting chief executive officer and president.

Mr. Virata is a director of the airline and chairman of Jardine Fleming Exchange Capital. He is also reported to be a financial adviser to Mr. Tan. Mr. Tan, who owns

70 percent of the airline and had assumed most of the chief executive's functions in recent months, will remain chairman.

The shuffle of executives is an effort to placate creditors, who rejected the airline's rehabilitation plan in part because it failed to address the lack of confidence in its current management.

Perfecto Yasay, who heads the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission, said Mr. Tan's

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WORLD ROUNDUP

A Vote for Blatter

SOCCER The new head of the U.S. Soccer Federation is backing the proposal by FIFA's president, Sepp Blatter, to play the World Cup every two years.

Robert Contiguglia, who succeeded Alan Rothenberg last August as the USSF president, said Thursday that the desire to stage the World Cup in the United States again in 2010 or 2014 was a major factor. "In this country, having another World Cup will provide a big boost," Contiguglia said.

South Africa, England and Germany are the top contenders to stage the tournament in 2006. If South Africa wins the bidding, Europe is expected to be the favorite to stage the tournament in 2010. (AP)

The Worm Turns

BASKETBALL Dennis Rodman changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most outrageous player posted a message on his Internet site announcing his unretirement. "I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender. Chicago, New York and L.A. are all cities I'd like to play in. Playing overseas could be pretty cool, too." (AP)

New Coach for Colorado

FOOTBALL Gary Barnett, who revived a moribund program at Northwestern, was named the 22nd head football coach in University of Colorado history. Barnett replaces Rick Neuheisel, who left Colorado for the head coaching job at the University of Washington. (AP)

Three on Top With 67s

GOLF The Englishman Ian Gault, the American Ron McCann and the German Sven Struer capitalized on calm morning winds and each shot 4-under par 67s to share the lead Thursday after the first round of the South African Open in Stellenbosch. Nick Faldo, who predicted the course would be a "piece of cake," shot 70, while Ernie Els, the defender, matched par. (AP)

Despite Her Many Faults, They Love Kournikova
She Wins, but No. 8 Rusedski Is Upset

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

MELBOURNE — There is an adage in tennis that "a player is only as good as his or her second serve."

If that were entirely true, Anna Kournikova would not be in the third round of the Australian Open. After serving 23 double faults in her opening match, she served 31 more on Thursday in a 1-6, 6-4, 10-8 victory over Japan's Miho Saeki that was often about as easy to watch as a petrified child's first piano recital.

"I'm really frustrated about it, just like everybody who's watching," she said.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

12th-seeded Kournikova said afterward, "In practice, I feel fine. I serve normal, and there's no sign of double faults. But when I come to the line when I play there is something happening. I'm just going to have to get over it and try to fight through, just like I did today."

There were matches with more importance at Melbourne Park in the second round Thursday. There was Barbara Schett's minor upset of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No. 4 women's seed and reigning French Open champion. There was the Stanford University player Paul Goldstein's major upset of Greg Rusedski, the No. 8 men's seed.

But the talking point in the stadium halls and concession stands was Kournikova, and for a change it had more to do with her performance than her appearance.

"It's excruciating. I'm sure she's going crazy," said the American Todd Martin, who won and will face Petr Korda in the third round. "It's just difficult when you serve goes. It's obvious. Everybody realizes, even the most ignorant of tennis people."

Steffi Graf, who defeated Barbara Schwartz, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, said that "everybody talking about it and asking about it just makes it so much more difficult mentally."

Martina Hingis, Kournikova's doubles partner here, took the whole issue less seriously and said Kournikova's travails had become regular viewing in the locker room.

"It's quite funny," Hingis said. "I mean, it's like you wait until the next

double fault comes."

Kournikova's difficulties, which began last fall, have hardly reduced her fan base. While Korda was in the midst of overwhelming Julian Alonso of Spain, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1, in the match that preceded Kournikova's on Court 2, someone in the crowd shouted, "Hurry up! We want to see Anna!"

When the 18-year-old arrived, a group of young men waved a banner that read, "And on the seventh day, God created Anna."

But there was nothing divine about her service games.

Nearly a quarter of the points she lost in the match came on double faults, and though she did manage to hit 39 second serves in the court, they were often so weak that Saeki could force the Russian on the defensive with her return.

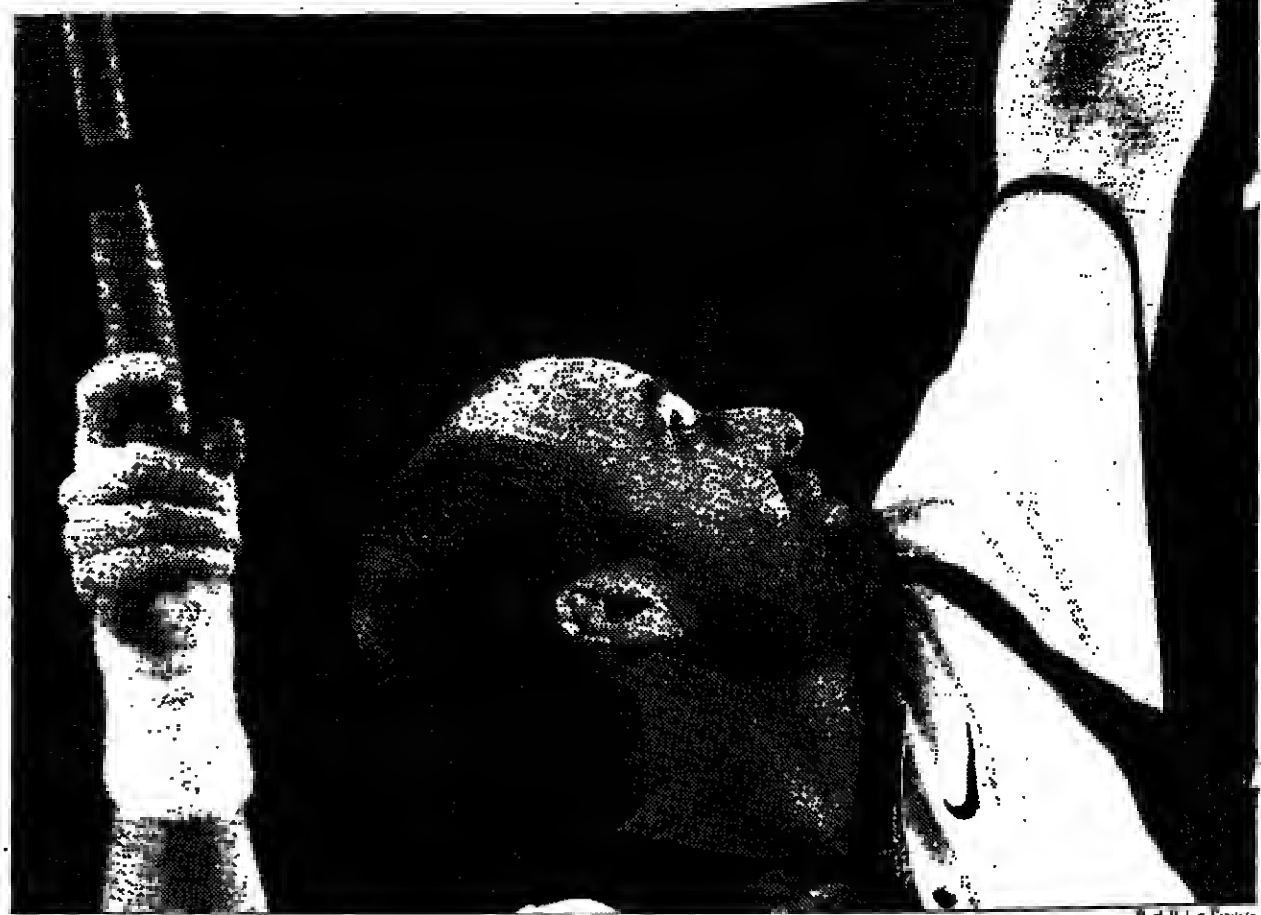
Kournikova's frustration occasionally seeped into other parts of her game. She led by 5-0 in the final set but then double faulted on both match points she had in that game. Saeki's comeback to 5-5 was underway, but to Kournikova's credit, she did not wilt in the midday Australian heat. She broke Saeki in the next game and then earned her third match point at 6-5, ad-in, but knocked a short overhead in the net and then failed to hold.

In all, there would be 21 breaks of serve, but Kournikova, after beginning to suffer leg cramps and after squandering a fourth match point, finally broke the cycle and served out the match at 9-8. When it ended, she looked much more relieved than delighted.

"Her spirit is very strong," said Kournikova's coach Pavel Slozil, who has consulted with the Australian Davis Cup coach, Tony Roche, this week about Kournikova's service problems.

"Roche said that no matter what we do, we must stay positive and she must keep on letting the racket head go," Slozil said. "She must keep swinging freely through the ball, not try to slow down the racket speed."

Slozil said Kournikova had been practicing "very hard" and hit "200 to 300 serves every day" without problems. "But for these girls who are 17 or 18 years old, every match is so tough, so important," he said. "It's not easy to take what you do on the practice courts and transfer it into a Grand Slam tournament."



Andre Agassi serving Thursday in his 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 6-0 victory over Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic.

For Kournikova's mother, Alla, the problem is linked to the torn ligaments Anna suffered in her serving hand and which kept her out of Wimbledon last summer.

Slozil said he had noticed "she was out so sure about her serve" since she lost in the second round to Amanda Coetzer last August in Atlanta.

In her first four matches this year, she has double-faulted 91 times, but Kournikova said she had not yet considered consulting a sports psychologist.

"Can we talk about something nice?" she asked nicely.

Others had less traumatic victories on Thursday. Jim Courier of the United States reached the third round with a four-set victory over Yoones El Aynoui of Morocco. The Australian 15-year-old Jelena Dokic, who is competing in her first Grand Slam event and already drawing huge crowds, reached the third round by defeating the American Kristina Brandi and will play Hingis next.

Hingis beat Russian qualifier Elena Dementieva, a 17-year-old qualifier who is ranked No. 185 and occasionally had Hingis scrambling in the early going.

"I'm getting all the juniors now; it's unbelievable," said Hingis, all of 18. "It's definitely a new feeling for me."

Beating Sanchez Vicario was nothing new for Schett, the rising Austrian.

She did it just last week in Sydney on her way to the semifinals. That time, she needed three sets. This time, she needed only two, winning 6-2, 6-2.

"I think tennis has changed a lot now," Schett said. "It's a lot faster, and the girls are playing more aggressive now than Arantxa does. With her type of game, you really have to move very well, and at the moment, I think she has some problems with her forehand and doesn't have a lot of self-confidence."

Few would have expressed confidence that Goldstein, a qualifier ranked No. 187, would knock Rusedski out of the Australia Open. But the 22-year-old from Rockville, Maryland, who turned professional after graduating from Stanford last June, wove a fine web against the Briton to win by 6-4, 6-7 (9-11), 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Though Rusedski, who has been struggling so far this season, was hardly in rare form, Goldstein served cleverly, covered court well and lobbed and returned very well.

"He's probably one of the best guys I've ever played in terms of returning my serve," said Rusedski, the 1997 U.S. Open finalist who has the fastest and one of the finest overall serves in the game.

Goldstein attended high school and Stanford with President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea. At Stanford, he was a human biology major and the first player to be a member of four consecutive National Collegiate Athletic Association championship tennis teams.

Not surprisingly, he talks nearly as good a game as he plays.

"It's a pretty humbling place," he said of Stanford. "As John McEnroe said when he came the summer after he got into the tennis of Wimbledon at 18 years of age and was 30 in the world. He shows up on campus as a freshman and he thinks all the women will be all over him, and he left after a year because it was like, 'I was nothing there.' I might have misquoted him a little bit, but I think that's the general gist of it."

While Goldstein was providing freshness and light, Korda and the falter from his positive test for steroids continued to set a darker mood.

The promotional poster for this year's Australian Open features defending champions Hingis and Korda, who is pumping his fist. According to several players who declined to be identified,

someone drew a syringe on top of Korda's fist on one of the posters hanging in the men's locker room.

After his match against Alonso, Korda said he had been heckled by fans, although he declined to relate what had been said.

Meanwhile, the Czech players Slava Dosedel, Martin Damm and Jiri Novak all indicated that if Korda was included in another Davis Cup team, they would refuse to play.

Korda retired from Davis Cup play in 1997 but has not ruled out a return to the new Czech captain, Tomas Smid.

"It's very bad for Czech tennis, this case," said Dosedel, who was beaten in straight sets by an extremely sharp Andre Agassi on Thursday.

"Korda has explained nothing to us Czech players either, and that is bad, too."



Mary Pierce reacting to a return by Anne Kremer of Luxembourg.

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SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	23	10	56	121	86
New Jersey	24	14	53	128	114
Pittsburgh	20	17	47	120	108
N.Y. Rangers	17	20	41	116	122
N.Y. Islanders	12	25	29	101	134

NORTHEAST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	24	16	58	148	131
Ottawa	24	14	58	130	100
Buffalo	22	17	53	119	96
Boston	20	15	47	115	94
Montreal	17	20	42	105	117

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	20	17	47	115	108
Florida	16	22	41	108	114
Washington	16	22	41	99	109
Tampa Bay	10	20	24	94	132

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	22	16	58	121	121
Chicago	16	24	41	102	105
Nashville	12	25	27	91	138

NORTHWEST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	21	19	44	110	111
Edmonton	18	19	42	122	116
Vancouver	15	24	36	115	125
Calgary	15	24	36	115	135

PACIFIC DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	22	7	61	127	89
San Jose	24	11	59	110	84
Los Angeles	15	19	41	101	103
San Jose	16	24	34	104	118

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Florida	1	3-5
N.Y. Islanders	1	3-2

First Period: New York, 1-0; Florida, 1-0. Second Period: Florida, 2-0; New York, 1-0. Third Period: Florida, 1-0; New York, 1-0.

Goaltenders: Florida, D. Rask; New York, J. Hasek.

Penalty Shots: Florida, 1-0; New York, 1-0.

Shots on Goal: Florida, 15; New York, 12.

Time on Ice: Florida, 60:00; New York, 60:00.

Referee: D. Treier.

Linesmen: J. B. ...

Scoreboard continued on page 19.

BASKETBALL

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

TOP 25

No.	Team	W-L	Points
1.	Duke	14-0	111-40
2.	Duke	14-0	111-40
3.	Duke	14-0	111-40
4.	Duke	14-0	111-40
5.	Duke	14-0	111-40

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Team	Score	Opponent	Score
Duke	77	North Carolina	72
Duke	77	North Carolina	72
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Duke	77	North Carolina	72
Duke	77	North Carolina	72
Duke	77	North Carolina	72

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

ROLEAGUE	Australia, 4-6, 6-4, 7-3, 6-4; Y nikov (10), def. Jason Stalder 7-5, 7-1, 7-1, 6-2, 10-12, 7-1, 6-2
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SPORTS

'Irrefutable Evidence' of Corruption

After Inquiry, Top IOC Official Condemns Actions of Some Members

By Steven Pearlstein
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — A senior International Olympic Committee official says there is "solid, irrefutable evidence" that a number of IOC members or their relatives received cash, gifts or donations directly or indirectly from organizers of the Salt Lake City Games.

The official, Richard Pound, the IOC vice president who is chairman of a special panel looking into allegations of corruption and bribery surrounding Salt Lake City's selection as site of the 2002 Winter Olympics, said that in several cases the amounts exceeded \$100,000.

Pound apologized to fans, athletes and the people of Salt Lake City on Thursday for the scandal. The Associated Press reported from New York. Pound said that the case had left the committee "profoundly disappointed" and that it was prepared to take strong steps to make sure the culprits were punished.

"We'd like to express our sincere apologies for the actions of certain IOC members," said Pound. "Their conduct has been completely contrary to everything the Olympic movement has worked so hard to represent. Moreover, the IOC would like to express its deepest regrets to the people and community of Salt Lake City."

[Pound said that his investigation had found no evidence of criminal activity, but that the behavior of a few of the 115-member committee could not be tolerated. He also said Salt Lake City won the 2002 Winter Games "because it produced the best, most comprehensive bid. End of story."]

Pound and other members of the panel met in New York with their lawyers and members of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, who have been cooperating with the IOC since the scandal became public last month.

One member of the IOC has resigned in the aftermath of the mushrooming scandal, while several other IOC members have disputed the allegations of wrongdoing in writing. Pound and four colleagues on the panel have reviewed those responses for the first time, along with the Salt Lake committee officials.

"When you see it in black and white, it's pretty blatant stuff, so I don't think the people involved are going to be able to explain it away," Pound said.

Pound and the other panel members are due to fly to IOC headquarters in Lausanne this weekend to present their final report to the body's executive committee. After the presentation, the IOC members mentioned in the report will have an opportunity to present their own defense. If they fail to sway the committee, they will be asked to resign or face

expulsion by the full 114-member IOC at a special meeting scheduled for March. Pound said the instances of corruption engaged in by some IOC members were so egregious that they could not be explained by differences in the way business is conducted in some cultures.

Thirteen IOC members have been implicated publicly in the corruption scandal.

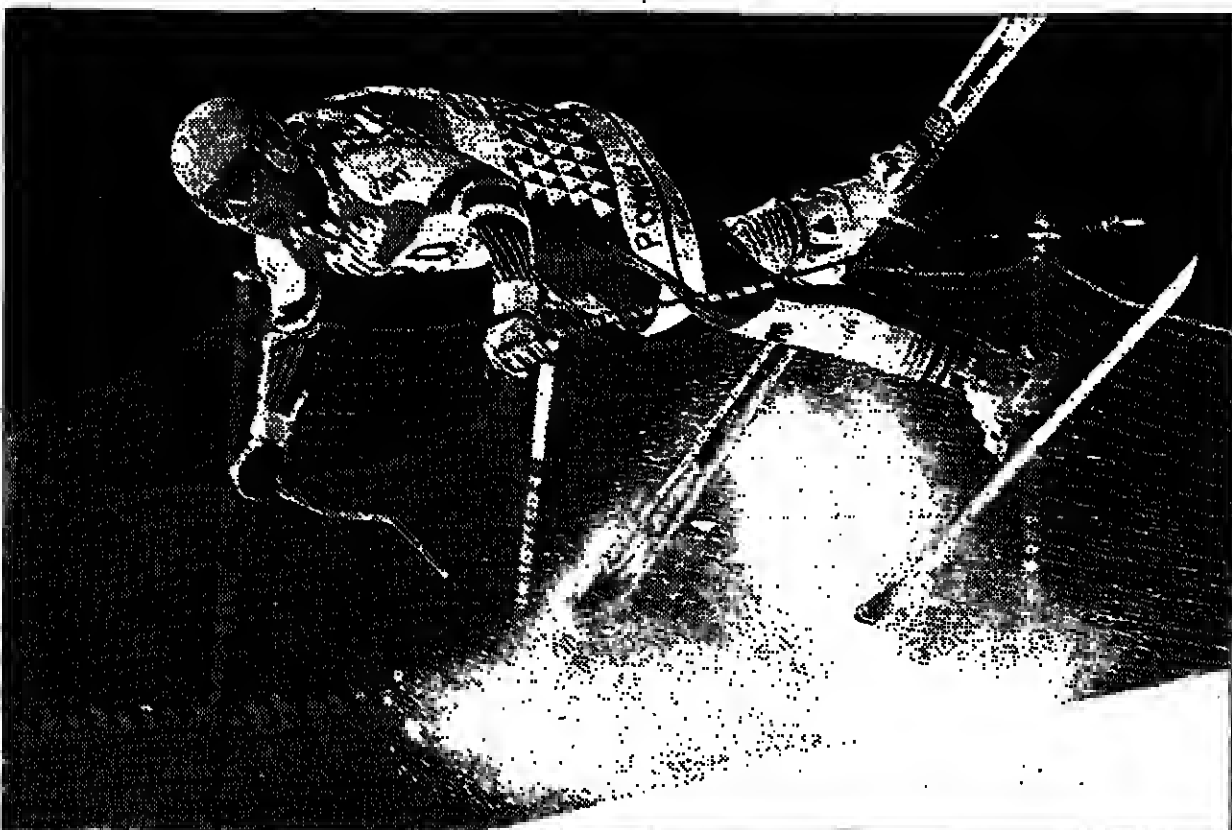
Even as Pound and his colleagues complete their initial investigation of the activities of the SLOC, revelations from around the world about other bidders for other Olympic Games have forced the IOC into ordering a wider inquiry, going back at least a decade.

"I don't think any of us believes that Salt Lake is the first time this sort of thing has happened," said Pound.

Other Olympic Cities Respond

There were these other developments, The Associated Press reported: Pressure from the Winter Olympics bribery scandal has prompted Sydney officials to make public documents they say help show that the Australian city's bid for the 2000 Summer Games was without misdeeds.

Organizers of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics said they would welcome an investigation, if only to stop speculation about possible misdeeds during the bidding process.



Patrick Ortlieb of Austria tumbling off the course Thursday in a training run for weekend races in Kitzbuehel, Austria. He broke his right thigh, dislocated his right hip and suffered neck bruises in the crash.

Ski Crash May End Austrian's Career

Kitzbuehel, Austria — A terrifying crash Thursday may have ended the career of Patrick Ortlieb of Austria, the former Olympic and world downhill ski champion.

Ortlieb, 31, suffered a compound fracture of his right thigh, a dislocated right hip and neck bruises in a practice run for a downhill doubleheader here Friday and Saturday.

The Austrian, who won the Kitzbuehel downhill in 1994, lost his balance in the final corner of one of the most treacherous courses on the World Cup circuit.

Coming into a corner known as the Hausbergkante at about 100 kilometers an hour (60 miles an hour), Ortlieb cartwheeled and smashed into the safety net. He received treatment on the spot before being taken by helicopter to a

local hospital. Ortlieb was later flown to a hospital in Innsbruck for emergency surgery.

Ortlieb won the Olympic downhill at the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, and the world championship in 1996 in Sierra Nevada. He was fourth at the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

The severity of injuries appeared likely to end the career of Ortlieb, who had been thinking of retiring after this season. Ortlieb also crashed badly at Wengen, Switzerland, last weekend, suffering back and neck bruises.

Frederic Marin-Cudraz of France crashed at the same spot later Thursday and was taken to the hospital with a knee injury. He tore ligaments in his left knee and will miss the rest of the season, doctors said.

French Women Get a Victory

Regine Cavagnoud scored a long-awaited first career victory Thursday in a World Cup downhill and ended a 17-year drought by French women in the discipline, The Associated Press reported from Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy.

"It is about time a French woman won in downhill," said a jubilant Cavagnoud, who had never won a race in her eight years on the circuit.

The French women's most recent victory in downhill was in 1982, when Caroline Atria won in Sansicario, Italy.

On Thursday, Cavagnoud edged the Italian favorite, Isolde Kostner — winner of the past three downhills in Cortina — by just 14 hundredths of a second. Cavagnoud completed the course in 1 minute 31.06 seconds.

Bure Makes an Auspicious Debut With Panthers

The Associated Press

After a season-long layoff, Pavel Bure needed only 12 minutes of ice time to score two goals. The Florida Panthers can only wonder what he will do once he gets in shape.

"Everyone knows who he is and what he can do," said the Florida

NHL Roundup

Coach, Terry Murray, after Bure led the Panthers to a 5-2 victory over the Islanders on Wednesday in Uniondale, New York.

Bure, acquired in a seven-player trade Sunday with Vancouver, said he felt a little rusty when he took his first

NHL shift since the end of last season. "My timing wasn't there in the first period," he said.

Things were a lot better in the second, when Bure took off on a breakaway and beat the Islanders' goalie, Felix Potvin, to give the Panthers a 2-1 lead at 7:39 of the period.

Bure didn't look rusty to the Islanders' Claude Lapointe. "He's a world-class player. You can't give him many chances in front. It doesn't matter if he's out three months or a year."

Bure added a power-play goal in the third period when the Panthers scored three times to extend the Islanders' winless streak to 11 games (0-10-1). Bure returned to the National

Hockey League on his own terms, forcing his trade from the Canucks with a season-long holdout. In the last year of a contract paying him \$8 million a year, Bure is reportedly working on a five-year deal worth \$30 million.

Against the Islanders, Bure skated on an all-Russian line with Viktor Kozlov and Oleg Stashevsky.

Maple Leafs 6, Stars 4 The newly acquired defenseman Bryan Berard had a goal and two assists as Toronto won in Dallas.

Devils 4, Mighty Ducks 3 Vadim Sharifjanov scored the go-ahead goal with 1:20 remaining to lift New Jersey to victory in Anaheim. Lyle Odelein had three assists for the Devils.

Fans in Tow, Jordan Sets Off on Retirement With a Round of Golf

By Thomas Bonk
Los Angeles Times Service

LA QUINTA, California — On the occasion of his new career as the most celebrated amateur golfer in the world (retired basketball player division), Michael Jordan chose a tasteful black shirt, tailored gray slacks with white accents and distinctive brown and black shoes, then accented the ensemble with a cigar longer than a three-pointer.

The tears might not have dried yet on the sidewalks of Chicago since he announced his retirement from the Bulls a week earlier, but there was Jordan at the tee Wednesday, ready to take a swing at his new life, surrounded by about 5,000 fans who had shown up at Bermuda Dunes to watch him start the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

Let the record show he did all right. "It was a lot of fun," Jordan said just before he disappeared in a sea of fans wedged into a supposedly secure area between the yellow gallery ropes.

Actually, it was probably a lot safer

there than anywhere close to Charles Barkley on the golf course. Barkley, who swings like someone trying to kill a cockroach, had Jordan flat on his back in laughter after knocking his golf ball over the grassland on his approach to No. 18, their ninth hole. Barkley also drove his ball on No. 6 onto the No. 5 fairway and generally played like someone severely directionally challenged.

Payne Stewart, the pro who played in the foursome with Jordan and Barkley, shook his head in mock terror when asked to describe Barkley's swing.

"It's pretty ugly," he said. Then there was Jordan. Curtis Strange, who has played with Jordan before, said he had a great swing, hit the ball a long way and needed only to practice to get a lot better.

Listed as a 10 handicap for the event, Jordan made six bogeys, two birdies, eight pars and picked up his ball twice in his group that, besides Stewart and Barkley, included Roy Green, a former wide receiver with the Cardinals and

Eagles. At the end of the round, after Jordan had sunk a 30-foot (9-meter) putt on the last hole, Barkley threw his arm around Green and said, "We're still trying to figure out who you are."

But everybody knew Jordan, and the PGA Tour commissioner, Tim Finchem, was more than happy to welcome him to the golf fold, full time or not (just show up on TV over the weekend, please!).

Finchem came close to popping the buttons on his blue blazer when he discussed the life of Jordan the golfer. "I think everybody should think about golf the week after they retire, especially the greatest basketball player of all time," Finchem said. "It's a great attraction."

Well, yes, he is. On the driving range, Barkley was asked to compare his golf game to Jordan's and had to admit that Jordan's was better, which was obvious to anyone who could tell straight from crooked. "Obviously he's a better liar, too, masquerading with that 10 handicap," Barkley said.

Where Jordan goes from here down the golf road is unclear. There have been rumors that Jordan and Tiger Woods will play together at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am in two weeks, but Jordan is supposed to have surgery Monday to repair a cut on his right index finger.

He said he had sliced himself with his cigar-cutter while vacationing in the Bahamas.

When Jordan birdied the second hole, he exclaimed, "And I did it with nine fingers!"

Barkley spent most of the day trying to keep track of his ball.

But he really wasn't surprised to be playing golf with Jordan because, he said, he had known Jordan was going to retire. And the announcement wasn't exactly kept secret, either.

"I got 500 TV stations at my home on the dish, and he was on every one of them," Barkley said.

Stewart said he had enjoyed his five-hour-plus round despite all the distractions. He wasn't happy about shooting a one-under 71, but that's celebrity golf.

And he was especially gracious in his opinion of Jordan's golf game.

"Michael has got some beautiful rhythm," he said. "He works very hard. He's just an exceptional athlete. When I saw the pairings, I was very excited. I knew I needed to focus and disregard the circus atmosphere. He did terrific. I'm sure it would be just as awkward for me to be on a basketball court."

"Michael Jordan is an icon. He needs more practice refining his short game, although he putted the ball extremely well. It's just a matter of timing with him. He can make it. He's got such a big arc, he can really generate a lot of club-head speed."

The thing with golf is, the more you practice, the better you get — except for Charles.

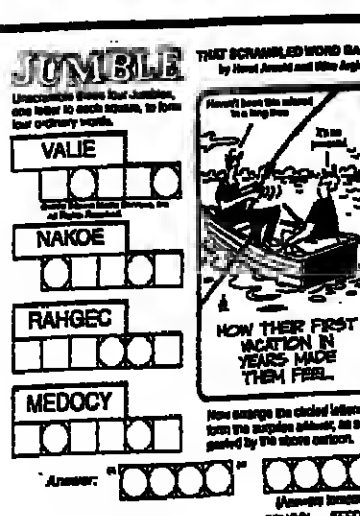
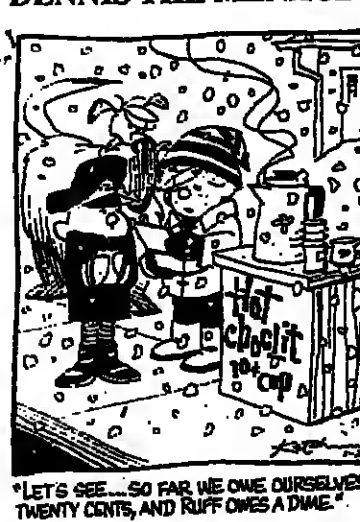
The gallery following Jordan thinned out on the back side, but the enthusiasm was not dimmed.

And in the morning, traffic was jammed on the way into Bermuda Dunes with fans hoping to make Jordan's tee time.



Michael Jordan taking a swing at a new life in the Hope tournament.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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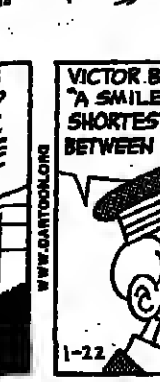
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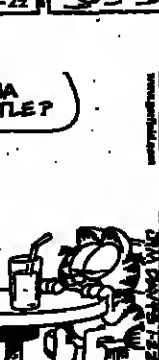
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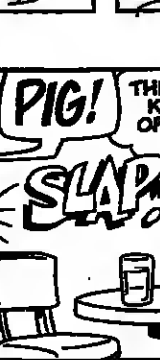
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Car Crazy in Cairo

By Howard Schneider
Washington Post Service

CAIRO—The scene in front of the Municipal Traffic Department here shows why driving in this city has become a 3-mile-an-hour exercise in gridlock that foreign analysts rate as among the world's worst.

In an example of how chaos begins at home, an ostensibly one-way street in front of the department hosts a steady flow of two-way traffic, all under the indifferent eyes of policemen at the building's entrance.

Multiply that scene a hundred times. Add the stop signs at which no one stops, the red lights that everyone ignores and the double- and triple-parking that seems to clog every artery. Stir in illegal left turns and debris-filled roads.

Spice the mix with donkey carts, horse carts, delivery bicycles and load-bearing pedestrians, and it is easy to understand the sentiments of Lieutenant Ahmed Assem, who is part of the government's effort to create a new era of order on this giant city's streets.

"Things in Cairo have reached the point of suffering," he said. "If our program falls back, I hope I will live somewhere else."

Unsnarling Cairo's traffic mess is a monumental task, but also an essential one in the view of World Bank analysts, who recently estimated the cost of Cairo traffic jams—in lost wages and other disruptions—as at hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

That does not count the financial and social costs associated with accidents, pollution, lost investment and traffic injuries and deaths. If things get much worse, local officials fear, the city's traffic

could start driving away tourists and foreign investors.

So the officialdom of Cairo is investing in major road improvements and confronting, for the first time, the legendary disdain of its residents for traffic rules and regulations.

A highway encircling Cairo is to be completed within two years, and a new bridge across the Nile has eased travel from the city's southern neighborhoods to the north near the Giza pyramids and beyond to Alexandria. Trips that formerly required a drive through midcity traffic now take only a few minutes.

Out-of-town taxis and other public vehicles must park in lots outside the city, where their passengers can transfer to local transport.

And a new tunnel beneath the central bazaar, the site of some of Cairo's oldest Islamic architecture, promises to ease one of the worst traffic choke points and help turn that area into a more pedestrian-friendly space.

But the city's best hope may rest on a less expensive fix: the infamous "Denver boot," which now can be seen clamped on entire rows of illegally parked cars along the Nile Corniche and other jammed arterial roadways.

Steps like that are every bit as important as better roads, said a World Bank transport analyst, George Tharakan. "Getting control of the internal streets is a question of telling people you cannot just park your car where you like."

He was one of the six World Bank analysts who spent two weeks studying the city's traffic. Their conclusion: Bangkok is bad. Beirut is bad. Tehran is bad. Plenty of places are bad. Cairo is worse.

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK—In early 1949, a 23-year-old Art Buchwald wrote his first column for this newspaper. At the time, he was in Paris, writing for what was then the European edition of the New York Herald Tribune.

Fifty years later, Buchwald has moved to New York, although the Herald Tribune now exists solely in Paris, where he spent 14 years hobnobbing with visiting American celebrities and other aristocrats while conscientiously plowing through the lunches, dinners, parties and shows that were the occupational hazards of an entertainment and nightlife columnist in postwar Europe.

It seems like it was a pretty good job, squirreling the likes of Bogart and Bacall, Lena Horne and Elvis Presley around Paris. But it began badly, he said, largely because his newspaper experience consisted solely of some unpaid work for Variety.

With those credentials and some questionable early writing, he said, "I figured I was going to get canned, so I started being funny. I was funny about international stuff. I was funny about the Aga Khan, the Duchess of Windsor."

Eventually, he said, his inexperience at writing and the dealing with the daily difficulties of Parisian life worked to his advantage and he built a following: "I have been described—and I don't object to it—as a Charlie Chaplin figure. Everything happened to me, and it also happened to all the tourists and they identified with it."

Perhaps, but not everybody got two free meals with the Aga Khan. "The Aga Khan called me once, the big one, Ali's father," Mr. Buchwald, I've been reading your articles and you seem to know a lot of restaurants in this town. Would you take me to a good one?"

A challenging assignment, and Buchwald was up to it. "There was a very good one called the Boule

d'Or, off the beaten track." So with the Aga Khan's lawyer in tow, off they went and a splendid time was had by all—until the end.

"We had a fantastic bottle of wine. The check came and nobody made a move for it, so I had to take it. It was like about \$50 a person." Fifty bucks back then translates to about \$900 in today's money. Even in those days, the Herald Tribune's accountants kept an eagle eye on expenses, so of course the \$150 was an outrage. "Where do you get off taking the Aga Khan to lunch?" Buchwald recalled his editor, Eric Hawkins, berating him. "So I looked at him and said: He wouldn't pay."

Hawkins gave in and approved the expense, but the story wasn't over. "A few weeks later," Buchwald says, "I got a call from the Aga Khan: 'You took me to a good restaurant, oow. I'm going to take you to one. Next Sunday, lunch?'" So off they went. "In a black-long Rolls-Royce."

When he was not dining with royalty, Buchwald's usual haunts were on the Champs-Élysées, near the newspaper's former offices on Rue de Berri. His favorites were Fouquet's and the oow-vanished Alexander's, both near Avenue George V.

Fouquet's was known for the quality of its kitchen, not bargain prices. So was he rich? "I don't know. That was another mystery of Paris. I always went to the best places. I never made a lot of money."

He did admit to padding his salary with some writing for Hollywood, though none of his scripts actually made it through the maze to the silver screen.

By 1962, however, Buchwald had had enough of such exacting labor and asked to be transferred to Washington. "The thing that was wrong with me, why I wanted to leave, was that I had run out of ideas on how to satirize the French."

The new town meant a new job. "When I went to Washington, I



Art Buchwald, all-American newsman, in his Paris days.

was working off the news," he recalled. "At the time, politically, it was very interesting for me because I liked politics. His timing was excellent, considering the historic import of the era. I started with Kennedy and Johnson and was also good for copy," he recalled.

Buchwald's column, a mix of humor and satire, became a fixture in Washington journalism during his 36 years there, though the restaurants were not as memorable as those in Paris. "There was a place, Sans Souci, in Washington," he

said when pressed to name one he liked. "I closed."

That was not his reason for moving north last summer, he said, though foodwise "I'm doing pretty good in New York." Favorite New York eateries include Le Cirque, Nicola's and, for day-to-day dining, Kaplan's, a midtown deli-cafe.

So what was the reason behind his return to his native New York City? "I got bored with Washington. I'd been there a long time. New York is a very exciting place

now, so I made the decision, and I'm glad I did. I like it."

New York has always moved at a faster pace than Washington, but these days, the whole world is frenzied, compared with past decades. Buchwald, however, said he has not changed his style in an era in which many people spend more time in front of televisions or computers than newspapers.

"You know, I stopped worrying about that because I couldn't do anything about it. I'm aware that it's different, everything is different, but there is nothing I can do about it."

Nor does he worry too much about what to call his style of writing. "I don't get too serious about satire or humor. Obviously the best thing to do is to get somebody to laugh and also get your message across. Sometimes they get it, and sometimes they don't."

Unlike the shift to Washington from Paris, Buchwald said, the move to New York does not involve a new job. "There's not going to be a change in my subject matter, there is just going to be a change in my location."

Yet even before he came, his subject matter had changed in a way that seemed to focus more on Wall Street than Capitol Hill. About half of his twice-weekly columns in recent months have delved into business-related topics.

"Now business is a big front-page story," he remarked. "There are more people involved."

He often takes aim at the big names of American capitalism, such companies as Cincorp and Exxon Corp.

"Most of it has to do with them laying off people to boost profits," he said. "Every time you see so-and-so said they would show a profit this year because they laid off 10,000 people—I really do have a thing in my heart for people."

He also does not like big mound numbers.

"I refuse to recognize 50 years," he said, "and I would appreciate it if nobody read the article."

PEOPLE

HOLLYWOOD has not done enough to acknowledge the work of Elia Kazan, according to the actor Charlton Heston. Heston is asking the film industry to bestow further honors on Kazan, the "On the Waterfront" director whose naming of names before the House Un-American Activities Committee in the 1950s made him an outcast among his colleagues. In a letter published in The Wall Street Journal, Heston said Kazan deserved a Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute, of which Heston was once chairman. Kazan is to receive a special Oscar at the Academy Awards in March, but Heston said he merited more. "The quality of his work as a director, both on Broadway and in Hollywood, is beyond dispute," Heston said. Kazan won Oscars for "Gentleman's Agreement" (1947) and "On the Waterfront" (1954).

Lawyers for Queen Elizabeth II have taken the unusual step of writing to the editor of a tabloid newspaper to complain about the publication of private

royal letters. Solicitors for the queen; her sister, Princess Margaret, and her son Prince Charles wrote to Piers Morgan, editor of the Mirror, after the tabloid published letters concerning the late Diana, Princess of Wales. The Mirror's front-page articles this week claimed the letters proved that Charles did love Diana, despite a stormy marriage that

ended in divorce. The newspaper said the letters were written in an unnamed member of the royal family and were handed over by another unnamed member.

Johnny Cash, Mel Tormé, Snokey Robinson, Otis Redding and Sam Cooke will receive a Lifetime Achieve-

Malcolm X Is Honored With a U.S. Stamp

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Malcolm X, the black American activist who was investigated and shadowed for years by the FBI, has been honored with a commemorative stamp. The governor of the U.S. Postal Service, S. David Fineman, unveiled the 33-cent stamp at the Apollo Theatre here.

Malcolm X, who was assassinated in a Harlem ballroom in 1965, was "a modern-day revolutionary who openly fought for the end of oppression and injustice," Fineman said. "He was a visionary, a man who dreamed of a better world and dared to do something about it."

Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, Malcolm X joined the Nation of Islam in 1952. Once a street hustler, he became a fiery orator and advocated black nationalism in the early 1960s. The stamp is the 22d in the Black Heritage series. Malcolm's daughters—Attallah, Qubilah, Ilyasah, Gamillah, Malaak and Malikah—were among the guests at the presentation.

ment Award at the Grammy Awards next month. Redding and Cooke are being honored posthumously. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences also announced that it would give Trustees Awards, for nonperforming industry contributors, to the song-writing teams of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, and Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

Archie Comic Publications has backed off its effort to force a man to stop using an on-line name he registered for his 22-month-old daughter, Veronica. The company, whose comic books feature Archie, Betty and Veronica, had threatened legal action unless David Sams pulled the Web site veronica.org. The company said it owned the trademark for the name Veronica. But now the company, which has registered the veronica.com name for its character, said no legal action would be taken unless Sams's Web site contains offensive material.



HANDS OFF!—The Elvis impersonator Don Vitale examining Frank Sinatra's 1956 Ford Thunderbird in Scottsdale, Arizona. Cars owned by Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin will be auctioned Saturday.



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